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Robin's mom talks about battles in and out of household

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France sends Brazil crashing out of World Cup

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Israel warplane bombs Palestinian premier's office

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Gem of RP ballet back

There's a king, pope, star in your family tree

NEW YORK—ACTRESS Brooke Shields has a pretty impressive pedigree—hanging from her family tree are Catherine de Medici and Lucrezia Borgia, Charlemagne and El Cid, William the Con-

THERE'S A/3

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Abalos: Why include me in impeachment case?

By Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

"WHY ME?"

Commissioner on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos raised this question amid suggestions that he be recommended for impeachment by the Office of the Ombudsman over the voided P1.3-billion Mega Pacific election automation deal.

ABALOS/ A/3

Manny: This is all for you

Filipino champ batters Mexican foe after 3rd round scare

By Francis Ochoa
Sports

FOR A BRIEF MOment in the third round, a hush fell over the Araneta Coliseum, interrupted only by surprised, unsure gasps.

Manny Pacquiao, the boxing hero many believed to be unconquerable, was at the receiving end of a barrage of blows from Mexican Oscar "Chiquito" Larios, the challenger many felt was just a piece of meat tossed into the lion's den.

Then, from the far corners of the coliseum, a shout cut through the silence and built up to a roar as the crowd repeatedly shouted Pacquiao's name.

At that, the Filipino ring icon turned everything around in an instant, showing the speed and power that have made him a byword in the 118-lb ranks, to sweep floor Larios, come out a unanimous decision winner and retain his WBC international super featherweight title.

"This is for all the Filipinos who always watch me fight and support me," Pacquiao said in Filipino after yesterday's noontime bout at the Big Dome.

Egged on by the crowd that had shelled out their hard-earned money to purchase pricey tickets to watch him live, the General Santos native knocked Larios down midway in the seventh round with a solid right to the jaw and then floored the challenger again 45 seconds before the final bell with a combination set up by a crisp left jab.

Although none of those knockdowns weighed Larios in the canvas for good—the Mexican got up quickly both times—it was enough to vet the victory Pacquiao had promised his

MANNY/ A/3

LIP AND DOWN: Filipino boxing idol Manny Pacquiao (top) raises his hands in victory under a giant Philippine flag after a breaking 12-round battle with Mexican Oscar Larios (bottom), who was down on the floor anew in the final round at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City. Pacquiao won by unanimous decision. EDWIN BACASMAS

French-German final seen with Brazil's debacle

By Amando Doronila

FRANCE ENDED BRAZIL'S DREAM OF winning a sixth World Cup with a stunning 1-0 upset in the quarterfinals in Frankfurt on Friday that sent thousands of Parisians dancing on the Champs Elysees and Rio de Janeiro's multitudes grieving.

Brazilians had come to believe that it was Brazil's divine right to be the longest-serving king of the world's most watched sport since

ANALYSIS

In Paris, the "Marseillaise" stirred up national pride to a pitch approaching that of the Liberation of France in 1945. In Rio, the samba and carnival had to wait for another day.

The exit of the Brasilians, the tournament's hot favorites, marked the third time France had defeated Brazil in their World Cup encounters. In the 1998 World Cup final, hosted by Paris, France defeated Brazil 3-0. In 1986, France won in the quarterfinals as it did last weekend.

France has only cleared the most formidable obstacle in its quest to add another World Cup title since 1998. The defeat of Brazil sets the stage for an epic French face-off with a historic enemy in the battlefields of Europe, Germany, which on Thursday defeated Argentina 4-2.

Germany takes on Italy in the semifinals on Tuesday at Dortmund; France plays Portugal on Wednesday in Munich. Barring upsets, it is the German-French encounter that is putting football fans all over the world on edge. It promises a rare all-European showdown in World Cup history between two European economic and political superpowers, let alone soccer superpowers.

On the football pitch, these two ancient enemies will prove their power, other than in the battlefields of Europe, where their armies had fought three great wars within a century—the Franco-Prussian war of the

FRENCH-GERMAN/ A/8

'DepEd can't feign ignorance of sex ed plan'

By Christian V. Esguerra and Alissin Papa

EDUCATION OFFICIALS ARE "FEIGNING ignorance" over the controversial sex education modules reportedly in use around the country, according to a longtime public school teacher.

To find such materials—one of which allegedly suggests the murder of an adulterous husband in his sleep—officials just need to visit any nearby public school, said Filipina Raitada, an expert on special education.

"The problem is they're feigning ignorance when, in fact, they were the ones who introduced the modules," she said in an interview with the Inquirer on Saturday.

Raitada earlier blew the whistle on the Department of Education for its plan to "pilot-test" a new batch of sex education modules in public schools in Pateros and Parañaque City.

She said those materials were updated versions of those first introduced in the country in 1975. They had since been "upgraded and enhanced" in 1993, 1995 and 1996.

Some of the new batch's frontrunners included lessons that purportedly allowed teachers to ask Grade 5 pupils to bring egg

DEPED/ A/8

Streets, churches, malls miss Sunday crowds as fans watch fight on TV

By Metro Staff and PDI Bureaus

JEEPNEY DRIVERS STOPPED PLYING THEIR routes. Church attendance was down. Malls, normally packed by noon on a Sunday, cried out for customers.

College sophomore Mae Santos, 18, summed it all up. No lover of the blood sport, she crossed her fingers for a Manny Pacquiao victory.

"Even if I'm not a sports fan, I'm still a Filipino," she told the Inquirer as she navigated her way through Robinson's Place in Ermita, Manila, where the crowd of customers was noticeably thin because many of the usual shoppers had stayed home to watch the fight.

For a day, everybody seemed to be a Pacquiao fan—well, almost everybody. Three Roman Catholic bishops whom the Inquirer texted—Oscar Cruz, Deogracias Iñiguez and

STREETS/ A/10

Armed men torch Bayan Muna radio station

GAMU, ISABELA—UNIDENTIFIED men using two soft drink bottles containing chemicals set ablaze a community radio station operated by the leftist group Bayan Muna and the local government yesterday, causing damage estimated at P1.5 million but no injuries.

Senior Supt. James Andrew Merlad, Cagayan police director, said at least eight armed men went to the station of dwRC Radyo Cagayanon in Barangay Centro at about 2 a.m. and rendered the station's transmitter and broadcast booth.

Merlad said the attackers also took the mobile phones of station manager Susan Mapa and five staff members.

The facility, put up by Bayan Muna and the local government only a month ago, had been critical of alleged abuses by the military in Cagayan Valley, Merlad said.

Grace Bautista, secretary general of the human rights advocate Karapatan in Cagayan Valley, blamed the military for the attack, saying the station had

ARMED MEN/ A/3

'Tagaytay 5' tell tale of terror in police custody

By TJ Burgonio

AS A PRESS OFFICER FOR A LEFTIST farmers' group advocating agrarian reform for four years now, poet Axel Alejandro Pinpin knew he could be picked up by police for questioning at anytime.

Pinpin had played the scene in his mind quite a few times. But when it happened, he was horrified. So were his four companions—Arandales Sanmenio, Riel Custodio, Michael Masapes and Rico Ybañez.

Pinpin and his companions lived to tell the tale, but their ordeal is far from over.

The five were cruising on a road by a ridge in Tagaytay City on the night of April 28 when suddenly a white van blocked their path. Within seconds, men wielding long firearms had jumped out, barking orders for them to get off.

They were cuffed behind their backs, shoved into the van and blindfolded. What followed were three days and three nights of intense interrogation and detention in different safehouses.

Their blindfolds still on, some of them were punched and kicked around. And once they were questioned inside

TAGAYTAY/ A/2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Second FRONTPAGE

MONDAY, JULY 3, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

GMA brings home $380M in projects

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL ARROYO CLINCHED FOUR projects worth $380 million or P20.3 billion for oil and gas, hotel and resort, and infrastructure development during her week-long trip to Spain and Italy.

The President said she met with the largest economic group in Spain, the Confederacion Española de Organizaciones Empresariales, which also represented interest in investing in the Philippines' tourism, mining and energy sectors, and in the area of information technology.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano told reporters yesterday that two of the largest hotel chains in Spain, Occidental and Nova Kaminas, each signified interest in building a 200- to 400-room hotel in the Philippines which would mean between a P2- to P4-billion investment.

Durano said representatives of the two hotel chains, whose international operations have long been confined to Latin America, were planning to visit the country.

It would be the first time these two hotel chains will enter Asia, he said, adding that the country's pristine beaches remained its biggest tourist attraction.

Warm greetings

Aside from the sizable investment deals, Ms Arroyo also brought home the "warm greetings of the leaders I encountered and the good wishes of their people," said Ms. Arroyo, who met with Italian leaders President Giorgio Napolitano and Prime Minister Romano Prodi, as well as Spanish Prime Ministry Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero.

The President also met with Pope Benedict XVI who told her he would pray for the Filipinos and for the country's development.

Return to Spain

Ms Arroyo also announced that she would be returning to Spain next year. She had accepted the invitation of Spain's King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia to go back for a state visit.

"His Majesty King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia accorded me their warmest and most gracious welcomes and I was honored to accept His Majesty's invitation for a state visit to Spain next year," the statement said.

Ms Arroyo said her visit to Spain next year would coincide with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Spain.

PRESIDENT ARROYO is welcomed home by AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga (left), Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita (partly hidden) and the ordinary and police top brass on her arrival yesterday at Villamor Air Base from her week-long European sojourn. JOY LARA

GMA can't be ousted now, says Gonzales

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION cannot be toppled by any opposition group, according to National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales.

Gonzales said that as the first anniversary of the government today and "that's only one emphasis a more on ignoring fundamental reforms."

"No opposition group in the Philippines, individually or [combined], is capable of toppling the present government," Gonzales told reporters yesterday at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City as he and other Cabinet members waited for President Macapagal-Arroyo to arrive from her week-long trip to Europe.

"We are no longer bothered by what the opposition is planning to do," Gonzales said, insisting that the opposition was "far weaker today than last year."

The President came home yesterday, greeted by new impeachment complaints filed in the House of Representatives last week. The complaints, which included charges of committing election fraud in 2004, were filed one every day for four days by different opposition groups.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the opposition's tendency of filing an impeachment complaint every day showed the "beauty of the democratic process where everyone is entitled to do what he wants to do."

Ermita said the opposition was doing this for political reasons but the "common man" could see through the antics.

He noted that the opposition will needed to "get their act together," former Vice President Teofisto Guingona, he said, was planning to stage a civil disobedience campaign against the government.

Although if he thought the opposition was not threatening today compared to months ago, Ermita said, "We don't want to be complacent, but things are clearer now. [But] may mde-misalibrate ang political atmosphere [The political atmosphere is less complicated]."

And with the return of the President from Spain and Italy where she made "unprecedented trade and security gains," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye urged the opposition to preserve the democratic gains "instead of politics."

"Presenting a good international image for the Philippines must be the responsibility of every citizen and all sectors. I am aware we have our differences, which entail a world of challenge and competition," Bunye said in a statement.

Embassy in Singapore gets custody of maid

THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN Singapore has gained custody of the Filipina domestic helper who was arrested by the city-state's police in connection with the death of a newborn on June 30, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

The DFA also finally identified the victim as Sharon Villareal Pino, 28, of General Santos City.

Shortly before noon on Friday, Singapore police found Pino's body at the base of a high-rise government apartment building in Bedok, South. She was pronounced dead on the spot.

Earlier that day, authorities were alerted about a fight that broke out between Pino and another Filipina maid on the 18th floor, from which Pino was believed to have fallen.

The DFA said the embassy on Saturday was given custody of the suspect, Stella Stella Consepcion, after her employer posted bail for her.

It was Consepcion who awaited for a family living in the government housing complex, the DFA said.

While Pino's death was made more prominent by the fall, the DFA said Consepcion was arrested for the offense of "voluntarily causing hurt with a dangerous weapon" under the Singapore Penal Code.

"The embassy had earlier requested for custody of Ms Consepcion and she is now under the embassy's care after her employer posted bail for her," said Philippine Ambassador Belen Anota.

Anota said Consepcion would remain at the embassy until the investigation was completed, and that the mission had begun giving her counseling while explaining her legal options. Pedr Cenon Jr.

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Beautification funds better spent on cops, say militants

THE POLICES INSECTES ARE MISPLACED, militants said yesterday, reacting to the beautification drive to Camp Crame, the Philippine National Police headquarters in Quezon City.

Leftist activists said the P1.2 million spent to improve the camp's sidewalk and the P50 million earmarked for the construction of the PNP Heritage Park would have been better spent for the welfare of policemen.

"Instead of spending millions on frivolous things like fairy tale bridges and wooden benches, the money could have been added to the salaries, hence benefits of the policemen as to their relatives," said the Bayanang Magkakaisang Pilipinas.

"The police, in the country, could have been used for the road and concrete welfare of policemen, not for superfluous projects," the BMP said.

The police funds have been benefiting Camp Crame, beginning with the construction last year of Heritage Park, which will feature a battle monument which will be inscribed the names of fallen policemen. The park will also highlight the achievements of the police from since its inception in 1901.

Camp's sidewalks have been paved with brick, red concrete tiles and lined with pocket gardens and wooden benches. As a finishing touch, fountains were put up.

Officers, militants agree

In a rare instance, some junior police officers and militants have found themselves on the same side of the fence. The officers, however, refused to speak on record for fear of being summoned by their superiors.

One officer said putting up a monument to honor colleagues killed in the line of duty was highly commendable.

"The cons are not," he said, calling them more "frustrative (impersonnes)."

"We have a problem with paying for electricity. So why do we have fountains that will consume more electricity?" he said.

He added: "We have a park and beautification, but what about treating to you personnel?"

A ranking officer who defended the project had said that the cons exactly what the PNP under Director General Arturo Lomibao was doing—focusing in due morale and welfare of the troops by building more police stations in the countryside.

During Lomibao's term, police stations had mushroomed nationwide—to counter spots as well as hotbeds of insurgency. Fifty-four new stations have been built, 51 are under construction and 48 are in the planning or bidding stages.

They would cost roughly P1.96 billion to be split between the police and the local governments.

The ranking officer, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, Lomibao had also made it his priority to connect with the policemen in his three posts. Using the PNP's hotlinphone, he often visited the men in the field sites—many for the first time—since their dead departure.

"It felt good to see how respected the men were," one officer had remarked to the bosses.

But BMP information officer Cesi Hernandez, flying the camp would not bolster morale among the troops and may even demoralize them.

"We know that ordinary cops face a lot of difficulties," he said.

Jaime S. del Puerto

Baggage airlines' lookout —Miaa

THE MANILA INTERnational Airport Authority (MIAA) on Friday said shocked-in baggage was the responsibility of the airline operating at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NIA).

Nevertheless, a MIAA official said the airport authority would investigate passengers' complaints of baggage pilferage at the NIA.

"We're not pointing fingers at anybody. We're taking responsibility for it because the airport authority is in charge of airport security and safety," said Robert Uy, head executive assistant of MIAA general manager Alfonso Cusi.

But Uy stressed that decided-to baggage into the "gateway" concern of the airlines.

Last June 22, Saudi airline Airlines informed Cusi that the son of Saudi Ambassador to the Philippines Mohamed Abdul Said his bag pilfered and his gold Rolex watch stolen.

The airline said it believed the pilferage took place at the Ninoy Aquino Airport.

Sison slams gov't plan for local peace talks

By Dalin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

HELP-SEEKING FILIPINO COMMUNIST leader Jose Ma. Sison blasted Malacañang's plans to conduct "localized peace talks" with New People's Army rebels and called it a "malicious offensive" to split and fragment the revolutionary movement.

Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), described the localized talks as "mere chattering and dining sessions" among Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) officials, local officials and paramilitary groups in the service of the Army and the police.

In an e-mailed statement from Utrecht, the Netherlands, he stressed that there was no instance when any bona fide member of the National Democratic Front had participated in localized peace talks.

Sison, NDF chief political consultant, said the government should only negotiate with the rebel movement guided under Luis Jalandoni.

The NDF, the political arm of the communist insurgency which grasps the CPP and its armed wing, the New People's Army, and 10 other underground organizations, pulled out of the peace talks in August 2004.

The communists insisted that the government use its influence with the United States and the European Union to get the communist-led organizations removed from the US and the European Union's list of international terrorist organizations.

Studies show attempt is to smear the stalled peace talks with the NDF. Malacañang had declared that the government would initiate localized peace talks.

Two years ago, Mr Arroyo also pushed for localization in the local level, ordering the implementation of the terms of a peace pact with rightist rebel factions, the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade.

According to Sison, since the second half of 2005, the Arroyo administration has been trying to sabotage the peace talk process by laying aside the previous agreements.

He recalled how Speaker Jose de Venecia and then CPP/NPF Secretary Eduardo Ermita brought to Utrecht on Nov. 30, 2003, a two-page draft of a "short-lived peace agreement, whose main provision required the surrender of arms by the NPA."

He said the NDF panel panel immediately rejected the government's demand.

'Tagaytay 5' tell tale of terror ...

From page A1

what they suspected to be a firing range, the interrogation broken by gunfire and taunts of "You're next!"

On three dread nights, they were roused and hauled into a van.

Then one fine noon overlying of all, Mr will had our blindfolds on and they led us up to the legs with marching tape. We thought we were going to be 'salvaged' (summarily executed," the family Pinpin, 34, his hair scrupe back into a ponytail, said in an interview.

People said his companions all bruised a sigh of relief when their van stopped and they were hauled back into their humid safehouse.

On May 1, they were taken out again for a long drive and after more than hour, their blindfolds were taken off for the first time just as their convoy was cruising along Roxas past 300 Shopping mall.

Minutes later, clad in orange T-shirts, they were paraded before the press at the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame as communist guerrillas out to sabotage the Labor Day rally that day.

On May 5 at the Tagaytay prosecutors' office, they were charged with rebellion for allegedly plotting to sow terror on May 1. They had been thrown together in a cell, but cramped cell inside Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba, Laguna.

Reminiscent of Marcos years

The case of the "Tagaytay 5" along with the killings of leftist activists illustrates what human rights workers describe as the deteriorating human rights situation reminiscent of the Ferdinand Marcos years.

"They are living evidences," Jessica Soto, executive director of Amnesty International Philippines, said by telephone. They can prove and show that political killings are happening, she said.

More of those gunned down, ambushed or waylaid in the dead of the night or even in broad daylight across the country were local leaders of Bayan Muna, a party-list group the military purports to be a communist front.

Between January 2001, when Mar Pres. dent Macapagal-Arroyo took over the presidency from ousted President Joseph Estrada, and today, 210 activists, including 98 from Bayan Muna, have been killed.

While the Arroyo administration has denied any policy to hunt down left-leaning activists, the attacks have nonetheless created a "climate of fear and impunity," from said.

The attacks continued even after Mr Arroyo ordered the PNP to create Task Force Usig in May to keep tabs on the killings and after the country was elected to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Double-edged situation

"We have a double-edged situation. On the one hand, the Philippines was elected to the UN Human Rights Council," Soto said. "On the other hand, you have unexplained killings ... And unless the President says it has to stop, there are more killings."

The task force said that only a small percentage of the attacks had been carried out by either soldiers, militiamen or policemen.

"It would appear that only 20 percent was politically motivated," Senior Insp. Reuel Libag head of the task force's secretariat, said in his office at Camp Crame as he leafed through its file on the attacks.

Of the killings of 109 party-list group leaders the task force had investigated from 2001 to the present, 22 were initially found to have been carried out by the military and police, and 30 others, by communist guerrillas. The rest were the handiwork of private persons.

The task force also looked into the killings of farmers rebel leader and peace talks consultant Satur Ocampo.

Lawmakers said that the case of Ocampo, who was gunned down by masked men near his home in Talisay City, Negros Occ., on May 29, was proof of the government-instigated "scare of terrorism."

Police, however, described the murder as economic hit men.

Killings not state policy

Libag said the suspects in the rest of the killings of the 109 party-list members and 12 leftist militants were private individuals, but conceded that the investigators had failed to establish if they were hired guns of the military or police.

There was no evidence the killings were part of a state policy or were carried out by the squads mobilized by the military, as some militant groups had alleged, he said.

Interestingly, the task force has a smaller count of the killings because it excluded those killed in legitimate skirmishes with government troops.

So far, the task force has filed charges in 27 of the killings of party-list members and in four of the killings of militants, a low batting average if you ask the human rights people.

Soto said: "They need to do more. That's all but ain't enough."

Human Rights Commissioner Dominador Columbia II agreed: "We have not heard of any arrest or results of the investigation by Task Force Usig."

The Commission on Human Rights is looking into the killings as well as the case of the Tagaytay 5.

Looking for a trophy

Pinpin, information officer of the Kalipunan ng Magsasaka sa Katimugang Luzon (Kasanglala), offered this theory on why they were not executed:

"The military is looking for a trophy in Jolens the supposed tie-up between the Left and the Right," he said, speaking through the iron bars of their cell as a holding center in Camp Vicente Lim.

Since February the Arroyo administration had been banging on the "unholy alliance" of rightist officers and communist rebels as being behind a plot to oust the President.

A graduate of the Isnet forestries Agriculture College-Cavite State University), Pinpin is also part of the secretariat of the Cavite Farmers' Cooperative Council or the CFCC, which is under the office of Cavite Rep. Crispin Remulla.

Like Pinpin, Custodio, 29, is a member of the Kamagsasaka-ka, while Sumisiano, 46, is a consultant of several farmers' organizations. Hodes, 54, is a cockfighting aficionado and blueeyes, 26, a keeper of fighting cocks.

Selling farm products

As part of the Pole Trade Alliance, Kasagsasaka-ka works to improve the lot of farmers by marketing their coffee and sugar products in Canada as double chem food prices through its partner, Philippine Organic Marketers Cooperative, Inc.

Soto, Pinpin, Custodio and Sumisiano were progressive agriculturists, and on the night they were rounded up, they had just come from a meeting with farmers in Cavite to mobilize them for the Labor Day rally in Manila.

But Pinpin swore he and his companions were neither NPA guerrillas nor was their group a communist front. "We're not a front, we're a legal and legitimate organization," he said.

The estimated P900,000, which the activists seized from their bags and pockets on that fateful night, was raised by the group to buy bags and cans for the farmers' livelihood programs, Pinpin said. This and their personal effects were all gone now.

The police also confiscated mobile phones, floppy and flash discs, and receipts for the purchase of ammonium nitrate and 8,000 small ball bearings, supposedly components in the manufacture of improvised bombs.

Witchhunt

"This is all part of a concerted, conscious, deliberate effort by the state to create a witch hunt," said the Inspector Ed Formacion, who denied police claims he was the NPA commander in the province.

"It's a very unfair, lucky we're alive," he added.

Inside the camp, the Tagaytay 5 sleep side by side on the cold floor of their cramped cell. They are not allowed to go out for sun or exercise. But they have managed to smuggle books inside.

Here, Pinpin, a former University of the Philippines Writers' workshop fellow who has published a collection of poems called "Bagong Walong Tugma," managed to write a "very short short story" titled "Dalawa sa Isa," which he read aloud to the consternation of the guards.

Of course, he prefers to write poetry at home, beyond the walls of the camp, but then again in these uncertain times, the prospects are not that good.

"If I walk out of here free, definitely I won't be safe," Pinpin recently said. "Maybe the next time they see me, they'd shoot me down."

Armed men ...

From page A1

armed reports and communicated that condemned military abuses.

But Lt. Col. Leopoldo Salcos Jr., spokesperson of the Army's 5th Infantry Division, said the military had no hand in the incident and described the accusation as "absurd."

"The communists will readily accuse the (Armed Forces of the Philippines) of anything. You have to understand that the AFP is the foremost organization that stands in their way toward gaining political power," said Salcos. Filomeno Hoopa Jr., PDI Northern Luzon bureau

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124 Fil-Ams take up RP citizenship

A TOTAL OF 124 FILIPINO-AMERICANS IN THE states of Oregon and Washington took their oath to become Filipino citizens again under the dual citizenship law during a five-day consular outreach program of the Philippine Consulate General in San Francisco.

The consulate approved 553 applications in Portland, Oregon; 66 in Seattle and three in Walpole in the Yakima Valley in Washington, the Department of Foreign Affairs said in a statement yesterday.

A four-man consular team led by Vice Consul Anthony Miranda conducted the consular outreach program in Portland, Seattle and Walpole from June 14 to 16.

The ballot of the consulate reviews consisted of applications for dual citizenship by Filipinos, according to Consul General Manila Reverse Amadora.

"Entrusted for these reviews increased dramatically since November last year, when the requirements for applications were relaxed to allow the submission of substitute documents in lieu of a birth certificate authenticated by the National Statistics Office," Amadora said.

Amadora said that "for the first time," 79 qualified Filipinos residing in these areas registered as overseas absentee voters—28 in Portland, 23 in Seattle and nine in Walpole.

Pasco is an Indian reservation located more than 200 miles east of Seattle and home to more than a thousand Filipinos, majority of whom trace their roots to the Ilocos region.

Because these residents migrated to Wapato in the 1920s to the 1970s and

The consular services in Wapato were conducted at the 50-year-old Filipino Community Center, followed by a program where among the topics the embassy representatives discussed were trade and tourism opportunities in the Philippines.

The Filipino community of Yakima Valley reportedly thrived

"The valley is best known as the source of the world-renowned Washington apples, which Filipino migrant farmhands have helped produce over the decades," the CRS said. — Mikko Dijan

Let us not deceive the Filipino people!

Sigaw ng Bayan launched its drive for reform three months ago—on the proposition that our country would be better-off changing its political structure and system of government.

No one has challenged our judgment that the presidential system with a bicameral Congress has failed our people. We have *not* heard a single strong argument in its defense—given the grinding poverty of our people in many regions, and the destructive political structure presidential government has bred for seven decades. The truth is there is no single argument for this country to continue under a failed and flawed system—*other than the senators' individual ambitions to seek the presidency.*

Sigaw ng Bayan—backed by ten million citizens and the nationwide network of local governments—offers an alternative political structure we believe can rescue our country from 70 years of false starts and failed prophets.

Sigaw ng Bayan wants our country under a unicameral parliamentary government. Experience in every region around the globe has shown that this system works best in any country under any culture.

Old and new democracies have parliamentary governments

The record shows that most of the emerging democracies in the 20th century have embraced the parliamentary system—because it makes for efficient, open, program-based, and party-based government.

The more than eight million overseas Filipinos who've left this chronically backward country for better opportunities and a higher quality of life abroad—could not have chosen better. They have relocated in countries that are wealthy and have strong social programs and long-term stability because they are run by efficient parliamentary governments. We find large Filipino communities in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Japan and South Korea. They are also in Italy, Spain, England, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. They are in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada.

A system controlled by power brokers is not a genuine democracy

We want to shift the country to a parliamentary system—and a unicameral legislature—to put it on a similar trajectory toward long-term economic progress and political stability.

This would be impossible to achieve—unless we dismantle the chronically negligent Senate, and the present political system that favors only the elite, the power brokers, and big-time financiers who bankroll their own candidates, and then manipulate elections and their results. Anyone who insists that there is genuine democracy under this system is a hypocrite.

Sigaw ng Bayan is the national conscience stirring to life at last. Our goal is to put an end to this chronic misery.

We are *not* just occasional political and social activists.

We are constitutional warriors speaking for the downtrodden, the marginalized, and the majority who have decided they can no longer continue to suffer in silence.

What we seek to achieve

In seeking amendments to the 1987 Constitution, ***Sigaw ng Bayan*** has a clear vision of what it wants to achieve:

- ***Our people will vote for the leader of the nation and of the Government.*** Every Member of Parliament—elected by our people in each legislative district—has a fair and equal chance to become Prime Minister—or Cabinet Minister in the Government that shall be directly—and daily—responsible to the people who voted the Government to power.

- We are not about to extend indefinitely the tenure of those already in power. In fact, ***we are leveling the political playing field. We will synchronize elections every five years—eliminating huge expenditures and election campaigns that cost billions, which only the wealthy few can afford.*** Without Charter amendments, the elite political dynasties, which the 1987 Charter has not wiped out, will continue to dominate national and local politics.

- ***The 2007 elections will proceed as scheduled***—as already settled by Charter reform proponents, including the House of Representatives, which voted overwhelmingly to stick to the election cycle.

- We are *not* about to create a powerful Interim Parliament and a super-President with additional powers of a Prime Minister. Under the present Constitution, we already have an extremely powerful President. Under the proposed Charter amendments, we are clipping the powers of the President, part of which shall then be exercised by the Prime Minister. ***The President—who remains as chief executive—will share her powers with the Prime Minister, who shall run the day-to-day affairs of government as chief operating officer. The President and the Prime Minister are two different persons—not one and the same.*** The One'ville movement is totally wrong in making this claim.

- We are not about to weaken the Supreme Court. In fact, it ***shall remain a bulwark of our democracy.***

The new Constitution shall also achieve the following (which the elite have not addressed):

- ***Eliminate turncoatism—which is the root cause of our negative political culture.*** *Wala nang mga balimbing:* no more promiscuous party-switching. Our goal is to restore the primacy of party-based programs so that the dominant political party—when elected to power—shall be responsible for the program of government.

- ***Create a responsible opposition party in parliament whose members shall fully exercise their role*** as the best check to the majority party in a parliamentary government.

Unless we change the structure of government—and remove the restrictive economic provisions in the 1987 Charter—the Philippines will remain trapped in a web of destructive political culture, backbiting, fault-finding, and an economy that cannot compete with the best of Asia and the world.

To those who misrepresent our views, we say:

DON'T DECEIVE THE FILIPINO PEOPLE!

YOUR TIME HAS RUN OUT!

THE PEOPLE HAVE RISEN, AND THEIR SOVEREIGN CRY FOR CHANGE RESOUNDS NATIONWIDE!

Ang Sigaw ng Bayan: Yes! to People's Initiative

Visit our websites: www.sigawngbayan.com • www.sigawngbayan.net • www.sigawngbayan.org

Recall cases, join us, solons tell impeach proponents

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE ADMINISTRATION CAMP HAS CALLED on the opposition to recall the four impeachment complaints filed last week against President Macapagal-Arroyo and to join a unity government.

But the Senate minority refused and even challenged the Arroyo administration to file the impeachment process.

Stop hiding under the skirt of "internal contradictions" and face the issues head on, the opposition said.

The impeachment bid was the "worst possibility" for the country, according to Representatives Exequiel Javier of Antipolo and Rodolfo Albano III of Isabela, who had accompanied the President on her Europe trip.

Javier said the impeachment bid was the "handiwork" of former President Joseph Estrada "to satisfy his hunger for vengeance and power."

Albano called on the "opposition to forget their negative politics and join the administration in pushing for propose and produce" government programs."

He said the President was working hard to encourage European businessmen to invest their money in the country.

Working hard

"It's really unfair to the President, despite all her hard work and sacrifice, the opposition continues to work against her and his 'unfriendly Manila news' misrepresentations bid," Albano said.

Both lawmakers agreed with Trade Secretary Peter Favila that negative reports only served to hurt the country's image abroad.

Javier said the impeachment drive was being used as a campaign tool by senatorial aspirants in the 2007 polls and was part of Estrada's exit Arroyo plan.

House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano said he was not surprised by the administration's offer to join a unity government.

"The President has mandatorily refused to entertain genuine reforms. By buying people—that's how other friends can get out of problems she (and her allies are) facing," Cayetano said.

He added that it had been a "consistent" administration policy to offer juicy government positions and projects to the Arroyo's critics, instead of answering the issues.

"She does not do anything other than wants others to do exactly as she does. There's one set of rules for Cheta and her allies and another set of rules for the rest of the country," Cayetano said.

Students seek clarification on impeachment

By Alexis Puga

MILITANT STUDENTS HAS CHALLENGED the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to declare martial law should explain its authority and resolve the issue in the new impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The CHED had earlier agreed to the holding of Charter change seminars in colleges and universities conducted by former Cha-cha advocates, an arrangement deplored by the Bahaman Party.

"If the CHED really wants to enlighten students and educators on national affairs, it should start with issues hounding the Arroyo presidency that fueled the current political and economic crisis," Bahaman Party vice president Carl Mare Ramores said.

Ramores said schools were "the best alternative avenues for discourse and social critique in these times when so-called democratic institutions and processes are easily manipulated to conceal the truth."

He said: "The CHED should not allow itself to be used as a machinery for deceit. As education officials, it should just concentrate on its mandate on instilling social awareness, responsibility and involvement among the students rather than blindly following orders from higher ups."

School caravan

The Bahaman Party, the Youth Demanding Change's Nationalist Thrush (DARE) and the youth sectoral watchdog, Impeach Meister, will hold a nationwide school caravan starting this month to make the public aware of the grounds for the new impeachment complaint against Ms Arroyo.

"The problems of corruption, gross human rights violations and electoral fraud are issues of paramount importance that directly affect each and every Filipino. These are the realities that students ought to know and understand first, rather than the Cha-cha proposal which deceives the public with reforms while seeking to perpetuate the present ruling clique in its position," Ramores said.

The students leader warned of possible violence that could disrupt the Arroyo administration and its allies in Congress prematurely kill the second impeachment bid.

"While the Arroyo government insists that we should follow the Constitution and observe the rules of law, it is using its own hostile bureaucracy bend the law and keep the truth from coming out. Such moves further erode the remaining confidence that the public has in our government and Constitutional processes," Ramores said.

He clarified, however, that while they wouldn't support the second impeachment bid, they were not pinning their hopes on the process.

Pinay's essay on climate change wins Tokyo honors

By Blanche S. Rivera

AN ENGINEERING PROFESSOR'S ESSAY ON climate change, whipped up in 20 minutes, had its 15 minutes of fame in Japanese soil.

Carmelita R. Gwaltney's "The Most Diverse Sect" was among the four essays cited for "particular excellence" during the 14th Kiwanis Congress in Tokyo last week, besting more than 40 entries of university and post-graduate students from 16 other countries.

Gwaltney, an associate professor in the engineering department of the University of Santo Tomas, wrote about the experience of global warming in the Philippines.

"When I was young, I noticed stronger southeastern for the coming of December. You are coming from the Philippines where an snow [since the snow is] winter. I used to look to the cold weather of the holiday season," she said in her own composition.

"I remembered the simple joy of going to school in my new jacket. Then, these were December or more," she lamented, detailing the Kyoto Protocol and the Philippine government's dismal efforts at combating climate change.

Gwaltney, who is attending a research course on power and the environment at the Tokyo Institute for Technology under a Unesco program, was pleasantly surprised when she won.

"Blankly stable, in 20 minutes, I was done while the essay I thought I had nothing to lose... [but] I didn't think it was worth any award so I was surprised when they called me," she told the Inquirer yesterday in a phone interview.

Compared to the technical essays of the other participants, Gwaltney wrote simply—like she was talking to her students.

"I always tell my students 'you know when we were younger, we would go to school wearing jackets.' But kids don't experience that anymore — so the thought was there even before I started writing," she said.

The Kiwanis-sponsored Congress for Asia and the Pacific (Cap-Asia), a nonsectoral international organization based in Asia and the Pacific region organized by Japan's Ministry of Environment, hand-fed an essay-writing contest last March on the mitigating measures employed by member countries to combat global warming. It was open to all foreign students studying in Japan.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, July 3, 2006
13th Week in Ordinary Time
Thomas Apostle

1st Reading: Eph 2:19-22
Gospel: John 20:24-29

Thomas, the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he replied, "Until I have seen in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, the disciples were inside again and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors Jesus came and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Stretch out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas then said, "You are my Lord and my God." Jesus replied, "You believe because you can see me. Blest are they who have not seen and believe."

V
GET READY FOR THE POWER OF RED.

'DepEd can't feign ignorance of sex ed plan'

From page A1

plants, remembers or bummer for a lesson on condom use.

Bañaleo said she was familiar with the modules, having been a participant in the workshop on the "development of an enriched curriculum in population education for all levels" from Jan. 13 to Feb. 3, 1996.

She said she had been personally "assured" on how to use condoms as a way vigilance when she attended a seminar on AIDS Education Modules Revision at the Inter-Spirit Complex in Caridad in 1994.

"The idea then was to teach teachers so they would train their students on condom use later," she said.

"The goal of the program was initially to integrate sex education in the curriculum and it has succeeded," she said. "Now, the plan is to mainstream it with the more harmful modules."

Stirring issue

Bañaleo said DepEd officials were alerting the issue by claiming that the new batch of modules contained no-quarantine lessons.

"But how about the ones that came before them—and which are still in use in our schools today?" she asked.

Bañaleo showed the reporters copies of some of the books, such as "Tuwirang Alamat sa Sex Gamong Pilipino Adolescent: A Guidance Program for Adolescent Development for High School Students (Towards Your Better)."

Page 11 of the book asks if "sex itself sex (is) physically harmful."

The answer: "No, because there is no such thing as too much sex. Generally speaking and under normal circumstances, sexual intercourse—whether hetero- or homosexual—is not harmful. When one has had enough, and this level varies from person to person, one will stop."

Bañaleo said such a lesson was devoid of the moral aspect of the sexual act and appeared to encourage it among high school students.

The education department is willing to settle a controversial lesson plan for sex education in public schools. DepEd officers in charge Fe Hidalgo said yesterday.

DepEd-CBCP dialogue

Hidalgo made the statement ahead of a meeting with the influential Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) scheduled for today in the DepEd central office in Pasig City.

Earlier, Dr. Angelina Aguirre, head of the public Human Life International, objected to the lesson plan because it omitted the fact that condoms are did not ensure full protection from sexually transmitted diseases.

She said parents and not students should be responsible for teaching their youngsters about sex.

The complaint prompted the department to temporarily withdraw the lesson plans, which had been distributed to two pilot schools in Metro Manila—the Muñoz High School and Bicutan National High School.

Open to suggestions

At the meeting, the two sides are expected to iron out their differences even as the DepEd had said it was determined to distribute the lesson plans to the public schools.

"We are open to suggestions. If it will help us better promote and teach proper reproductive health among today's youth, we are open to it. And also to close the topic from any negative connotations," Hidalgo said.

She acknowledged that discussions about the use of condoms might not seem indeed part of the lesson plan on "value safe sex education."

But Hidalgo said the DepEd would listen to suggestions from the CBCP on how to discuss the use of contraceptives among students and take into consideration the fact that the Philippines is a predominantly Catholic country.

Reproductive health

Hidalgo said the DepEd preferred to use the term "adolescent reproductive health" (ARH) over "sex education" in the modules.

The DepEd will also incorporate population education concepts into subjects like Health, English, Science, Filipino, Technology and Livelihood Education, and Araling Panlipunan.

Hidalgo said the inclusion of the ARH in the new subjects was aimed at educating young adults on their "physical, emotional and social well-being."

"The objectives/desirable results of the group should be based on information that helps them attain a level of maturity required to make responsible decisions," she said.

The subject, Hidalgo explained, would be taught in English so as to reach the true sense of using Filipino words, which may be offensive to teachers and students.

Premarital sex

Earlier, Hidalgo denied that the DepEd was promoting premarital sex by circulating the use of condoms and other contraceptives.

"We are not teaching premarital sex. We do not even encourage that. What we are doing is telling them the consequences of such acts and what should be done. We are more suggestive in tone," she said.

Hidalgo also noted a survey by Social Dat. a growing number of youngsters were engaging in premarital sex. This was one reason the department had taken steps to inform students about issues related to sex.

The Young Adult Fertility Survey 03 by the University of the Philippines Population Institute found that in 2003, 23 percent of adolescents, aged 15 to 24 years old, already had sex, up from 15 percent in 1994.

The survey also found that overall risky sexual behavior increased from 20 percent in 1994 to 27 percent in 2003.

PHAP 60 Years of Service to Healthcare

PHARMACEUTICAL & HEALTHCARE ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Industry Highlights

- **Research-based industry.** The Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) and its 63 member companies represent the research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare industry, a key sector in the never-ending fight for improved health through the continuous development of new, better, more efficacious and cost-effective drug therapies. In the 20th and the 21st centuries, the world has seen remarkable medical advances, including cures for some of the most feared diseases. Many of these advances – such as defeating polio, smallpox and measles, and significant progress in the treatment of hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes and other conditions – have been due to the discoveries of new therapies.
- **Innovative, life-saving medicines.** These new therapies include revolutionary, life-saving discoveries that define the cutting edge of medical practice, and bring economic and social benefits to populations in both developed and developing countries. Innovative medicines and treatments past hope, give new hope for the future, and give patients and doctors more options in healthcare. These therapies can help control illness and lessen the need for hospitalization, save lives, and avoid costly hospitalizations that may involve surgery.
- **The role of R & D.** Research and development (R & D) that results in new therapies involves considerable costs. In the United States, research-based pharmaceutical companies spend US$ 30.4 Billion for R & D in 2005 alone. Only one of every 10,000 potential new drugs investigated by America's research-based pharmaceutical companies makes it through the research and development pipeline and is approved for patient use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. On average, obtaining regulatory approval for a new drug takes 10 years of R & D and costs over $800 million dollars.
- **Value of new drugs.** The value of new and better medicines derives not only from their medical benefits – prevention of disease, but also from a reduction in other health care costs, increased productivity and better quality of life.
- **Providing the bulk of the country's medicines.** PHAP member companies provide the bulk of the country's pharmaceuticals (safe/quality, legal, ethical, pharmacist) and medical devices. At last count, the PHAP membership accounted for over 70% of sales to drugstores and hospital pharmacies, and over 85% of industry sales of the distribution level.
- **Industry competition.** Competition in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry – indeed among PHAP Member Companies – is rigorous, since there are various drugs available in every therapeutic class. Apart from competing with generic drugs, new medicines also compete against each other. The competition has increased, with the duration to obtain a new medicine to all the market decreasing before another competing medicine in the same therapeutic class is introduced. The competition is beneficial to patients, since not every patient responds to every drug in the same way. The availability of different drugs in every therapeutic class, especially new medicines, provides better treatment options for individual patients, lowers risks of complications, improves patient compliance with treatment, and develops greater competition.
- **Global affiliations.** The PHAP is the only member in the country of the International Federation of Pharmaceutical Manufacturers & Associations (IFPMA) and the World Self-Medication Industry (WSMI). The IFPMA is a non-profit, non-governmental organization (NGO) representing industry associations in both developed and developing countries. IFPMA members are research-based, innovative, science-based pharmaceutical and vaccine companies. The World Self-Medication Industry (WSMI) is a global federation of associations representing manufacturers and distributors of non-prescription medicines, which seeks to promote better health through responsible self-medication. The IFPMA and the WSMI are NGOs in Official relations with the World Health Organization.
- **Belief in partnership for healthcare.** The PHAP is committed to working in partnership with both the public and the private sectors to improve access to quality healthcare, particularly medicines, for all Filipinos.
- **Access to quality medicines.** Pharmaceutical access is defined as the timely availability, subject to economic and physical conditions, of quality medicines to those patients who need them. A host of interrelated factors determine the level of access to quality medicines, such as the availability of financial resources, government policies, infrastructure conditions, private and public sector insurance programs, appropriate use, supply management and manufacturing capacity.
- **Multi-sectoral cooperation in addressing healthcare issues.** Experience worldwide has shown that multi-stakeholder initiatives have proven to be the most efficient and effective way of improving health areas with regard to the problem of access to quality medicines, particularly where there is significant poverty incidence. The cure of healthcare are a priority concern to policy makers, the pharmaceutical and healthcare industry, healthcare professionals and providers, and not the least, consumers. The PHAP and its Member Companies welcome multi-sectoral cooperation in addressing such healthcare issues. Only through rational analyses based on facts taken in proper context, as well as healthy and open debate, can workable solutions be developed to benefit Filipinos.

PHAP President's Message

Over The Years

The origins of the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) date back to July 1, 1946. On that day, a group of 10 men, each representing a leading pharmaceutical wholesaler in the country, established the Philippine Wholesale Druggists Association.

The Association's founders were John Hughs of the Philippine American Drug Company (Parke, who had invited some colleagues to meet at his office in San Vicente, Manila: Dino Pelaez of Oriente Commercial Corporation; Santiago of Hermano Ong Siong; Armando L. Sobrio of Mercurio and Company; Octavio Cruz of Botanical Drug; Louis Bance of Bolen's Pharmacy. Yu Sia Tek of Sarmiento Drug Company; Ang Tuntuyco, Jr. of Farmacia Central; William Yu of Farmacia Oriental; and Manuel Gotanco of Metro Drug Corporation.

On July 27, 1950, during a meeting at the Squibb Building then located in Intramuros, the organization was renamed the Drug Association of the Philippines, by which it was to be known for the next 46 years. Membership in the non-stock, non-profit association was expanded to include pharmaceutical manufacturers.

Early in 1996, the organization's name was changed to the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) to signify a wider representation of pharmaceutical and related healthcare companies.

From its post-war beginnings as a service engaged in wholesale and importation of finished products, the country's pharmaceutical industry, as represented by the PHAP has evolved over and with an important role in the economy, in society, and in the healthcare community in particular.

The growth of the PHAP over sixty years has reflected the development of the pharmaceutical industry in the Philippines, a sector which is a pillar of healthcare for Filipinos.

Reaching Out to Those in Need

PHAP CARES FOUNDATION, INC.

On July 16, 2001, the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines launched its social outreach arm, the PHAP Cares Foundation, Inc. The launch was highlighted by a "Pledge of Presence" signifying the commitment of PHAP Cares to donate Php 1 million worth of medicines to indigent patients through the Department of Health (DOH), for distribution to indigent patients through 72 hospitals nationwide, free of charge.

Under a protocol, PHAP Cares receives all product donations from PHAP Member Companies through the DOH Program Secretariat. Upon receipt of donated stocks, the DOH Secretariat then implements an allocation system based on the actual requirements of DOH-retained hospitals in various parts of the country.

PHAP Cares has been recognized as a "donee institution" by the Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC), an umbrella organization of several NGO networks designated by the Department of Finance as the accrediting entity to determine the qualifications of NGOs to avail of tax incentives.

The establishment of PHAP Cares marks the first time in the country that an association of multinational and local pharmaceutical and healthcare companies has formed a service-oriented, non-profit foundation to partner with the public sector and other NGOs in improving access to quality, essential medicines.

Ever prior to establishing PHAP Cares, the PHAP has continuously engaged in various outreach programs to benefit the Philippine people, such as conducting medical support to disaster areas, donations to medical missions conducted by or together with the government's anti-polio and anti-measles vaccination programs over the years, and providing free medicines to those of calamity.

The PHAP Cares staff is headed by Executive Director Glory Cuenco.

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Sitting (left to right): PHAP AVP-Sub Tarlac, PHAP EVP & CEO Leo Rosasan, Jr., and PHAP Cares Executive Director Glory Cuenco with the PHAP Secretariat staff (left to right): MMAP Proj. Coordinator Karen Bella Torre, Procurement Manager Cecil Mendoza, Secretary to EVP Edith Guerrero, Accountant Maricel Alecha, Research Associate Marshal Montemayor Exec. Asst. to EVP & CEO Claire Cuenco, Receptionist/ Messenger Ramon Flores, PHAP Cares Donation Office Coordin. Quammie, and Admin/ Finance & Admin. Asst. Sarah Duane.

Rights victims rap gov't for blocking compensation

By Michael Lim Ubac

HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIMS HAVE accused the government of blocking the payment of "just compensation" due them for the abuses they suffered during the dark days of martial law.

"It's ironic that we obtained justice abroad, yet our country which is supposed to defend and protect us is now obstructing justice," said 61-year-old Hilda Narciso who was raped and tortured by military men in 1984 when she was 36 years old.

Narciso joined party-list Rep. Etta Rosales and lawyer Rod Domingo Jr., acting chair and counsel of Claimants 1081, respectively, at a press conference to ask the government to withdraw its opposition to the Hawaii 9th Circuit court order on June 27 to partially indemnify the Marcos victims.

Judge Manuel Real had authorized the payment of $2,000 each to the 7,392 victims but the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) promptly secured a stay order and filed a petition to reopen the case.

Narciso, who was imprisoned for six months without charges, asked why the PCGG again sought a "re-hearing" of the case—the 9th appeal it lodged in the American courts.

No justice

"This contradicts the government's pronouncement that it's supportive of our case. So there's no justice in this country," said Narciso, stressing that the Philippine government should instead help the victims seek justice "but it did not happen here."

"Justice would never be complete without punishing the perpetrators, or paying the irreversible damage done to the victims," Narciso added.

Rosales said President Mocapagal-Arroyo should stop blocking the partial award of the $35 million the claimants won in 1995 by ordering the PCGG's American lawyers to withdraw their objection.

According to Rosales, both the Generation and the international community as well and political rights, to which the country is a signatory, called for compensation for rights victims.

Historical breakthrough

"This is the first ruling declaring the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos guilty of human rights violations," said Rosales, stressing it was a "historical breakthrough in the enhancement of international human rights and justice."

Rosales said the Philippine government had already spent $1 million in legal fees for the three human lawyers just to deprive Filipino victims of "just compensation."

According to Domingo, it could take about two to three months for the petition to be resolved.

"It's both pathetic and unfortunate that the 1,500 victims can't immediately get hold of their rightful partial distribution," said Domingo, describing the victims as "nearly destitute, poor and impoverished."

Show compassion

He asked Ms Arroyo to "show compassion for the victims, not to blame torturers and the human rights violations who seek to compromise with the PCGG."

"It isn't just real, it's a tragedy that the government wants to prevent the payment of to citizens from recovering from the brutal human rights violations," said lead counsel Rodolfo Aguinaldo Jr. in a statement.

Claimants 1081 was organized by thousands of human rights victims who won in 1995 a class suit against the Marcos estate in a Hawaii District Court amounting to $2 billion.

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Masinloc bidder loses $14-M bond

By Abigail L. Ho

THE $14-MILLION PERFORMANCE bond posted by winning bidder PBN Holdings Corporation Inc. for the 600-megawatt (MW) Masinloc coal-fired power plant in Zambales was finally forfeited in favor of the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp. (Psalm) after city prosecutors failed to file the P225-million balance payment for the plant on June 30.

Psalm, the government agency tasked with privatizing the assets of the National Power Corp. had three extended the deadline for PBN to pay the 40-percent down payment for its P35-billion winning bid for the Masinloc plant.

The consortium won the bid to buy the plant in December 2004.

The original deadline to remit the P225 million to Psalm was on Jan. 3, 2005. Psalm later moved the deadline to March 31 and then to June 30.

Psalm had entered all the deadline extensions after PBN increased its performance bond to 10.4 million from the original $11 million.

The deadline was pushed back to June 30 to allow the arrival of a new investor, Malaysian conglomerate Ranhill Bhd., to its PBN.

But on Friday, Psalm declared new in great another extension with PBN.

Psalm said the forfeiture of the performance bond meant that the Masinloc plant would be "re-bid at the appropriate time if conditions warrant."

In a statement, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said that Psalm could have just forfeited PBN's $11-million performance bond last March 31.

However, after assessing the situation, the Psalm board concluded that PBN's $16.1.7-million winning bid would be hard to match should the Masinloc plant be placed on the auction block again, he said.

He noted that the only other bidder, First Generation Corp., submitted a bid of only $274.691 million, less than half PBN's bid and 30 percent lower than Psalm reserve price of $500 million.

Psalm pointed out that the government actually gained from getting PBN's three-month deadline extension as this involved a higher performance bond of $14 million.

"The issuance of the 2nd bond by an additional $3 million as consideration for the bond duration is valid from since month increased the collectible amount to 27 pesos, a yield that any financial analyst would assess as a good yield over the short period of three months," Psalm said.

Psalm earlier downbid many various sectors, including legislators and militant groups, after extending PBN's deadline instead of immediately forfeiting the $11-million performance bond when it failed to meet the first deadline. With TJ Burgonio

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Jimenez gives cash, groceries

BGOS CITY—Rep. Mark Jimenez is at it again.

After donating P50 million to shareholders of Wells Fargo and doling out cash to fans in his residence during his birthday at Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, Jimenez went to Mindanao to do the same.

On Friday, he distributed cash and groceries to at least 7,500 families here.

The distribution was overseen by Reginald Cruz, brother of the second district of Davao del Sur and his mother, Gov. Jesnita Rosario A.

Jimenez and his Rambulan ran allies.

Reporters in Rambulan said the cash was normal cash and groceries, totaling 55 million, were families selected by the mayor and Governor Cruz.

But he clarified that not all of the selected families received cash, the said citizen only groceries.

"Only those whose houses were swept away by the floods got P10,000 each," Rambulan said.

Reports from the city disaster coordinating council said several houses were swept away by floods that hit the city two weeks ago. No casualties were reported.

Rambulan said those who are public behind Jimenez's generosity.

He said the former Manila solon was only responding to a request by his brother following Mayor Bonnie Lerma's appeal for assistance to the victims of the floods.

"Upon learning what happened, Jimenez called me to prepare a transfer relief assistance distributed at the mayor's possible," Rambulan said.

Eddie Aparri, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Madaling ipamahagi sa lahat
ang magandang balita.
DAHIL
SM
Malaki man ang pagitan,
kayang tawirin.
Serbisy
sa presyo

ART
TAYO
NA DITO!
ong mahalaga,
ong abot-kaya
SM
PADALA
Authorized Center
Taos pusong suporta,
madaling ipadala.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

'Merceditas Rules'

EDITORIAL

LIKE A SCHOOLBOY SLIPPING HIS HOMEWORK under the teacher's door a few minutes before deadline, the Office of the Ombudsman last Friday finally complied with a Supreme Court directive to determine the criminal liability of officials and private citizens involved in the anomalous Mega Pacific election automation contract. The findings by the anti-graft agency came two and a half years after the high court scolded the Commission on Elections contract and issued its directive. Were they worth the wait?

On June 30, the final deadline the court set for Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez to reach her conclusions, the Office of the Ombudsman issued a resolution "which contained [according to the agency's press statement] factual findings that can be used by the House of Representatives to initiate impeachment proceedings against Comelec Commissioner Resurreccion Borra."

The Ombudsman also ordered the dismissal of the five members of the Comelec Bids and Awards Committee which qualified the winning but ineligible bidder, Mega Pacific Consortium; prepared the filing of charges against the committee members before the Sandiganbayan; and recommended the filing of criminal charges against the eight incorporators of the consortium.

Speaking through Acting Overall Deputy Ombudsman Orlando Casimiro, the Ombudsman's office explained that Borra, once executive director of the Comelec before being appointed as one of seven commissioners, was liable "for allowing the Comelec's Bids and Awards Committee to declare Mega Pacific Consortium eligible to participate in the bidding process for the project, for allowing the material deviation from the bidding requirements, and for recommending to the IAC that the award be given to the MPC despite its ineligibility and technical failure."

The controversial contract awarding the project to Mega Pacific was approved by the Comelec itself on April 15, 2003, and signed by Chair Benjamin Abalos, Borra, Florentino Tuason Jr. and four other commissioners who are now retired: Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain.

But Gutierrez said further investigation was needed to determine the liability of the other commissioners. "We are still [in the] fact-finding level with regards to the other commissioners. We want to do a thorough investigation in order not to commit injustice."

Curiously, however, the latest (and belated) resolution allowed a suddenly narrow view of the Ombudsman's constitutional mandate. Casimiro said the Ombudsman was referring Borra's case to Congress, because the anti-graft agency had no jurisdiction over impeachable officials like Borra. "We are placing him at the disposal of the House of Representatives," Casimiro said.

This new legal principle deserves its own name, so let's call it the Borra Rule. Contrary to what is expressly stated in the Constitution (in Article XI) and elsewhere (as in RA 6770 [the "Ombudsman Act of 1989"], the first Merceditas Rule declares all impeachable officials—that is, public officials who can be removed from office only through impeachment—off limits, or out of reach of the Ombudsman's long arm.

In the Commission's listing of the Ombudsman's "powers, functions and duties," the scope of responsibility covers "any act or omission of any public official when such act or omission appears to be illegal, unjust, improper, or inefficient." The inclusive language is repeated in RA 6770, rewriting in the Constitution on the same powers the Ombudsman from acting against impeachable officials. After all, the privilege of impeachability does not grant a high official immunity against the Ombudsman's work.

But the first Merceditas Rule says otherwise, and it has an important corollary: The Ombudsman will summarily mandate other impeachable officials—such as, say, the President—immunized against the Ombudsman too.

The second Merceditas Rule places a ceiling on public officials' criminal liability: apparently for the Ombudsman, liability rises to a level of innocuousness. In the Mega Pacific case, the bidding committee is completely liable; the commissioner in charge of the project is partly liable; but the commissioners who approved the bid and awarded the anomalous contract? Not at all liable.

Like the first, the second rule also has a crucial corollary: Public officials must sense that the commissioners—such as, say, the President—can never, ever be liable.

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Provide Pinoys with jobs at home, not abroad

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

NOBEL PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO used her party of parliamentary cronies from Spain, one of the "achievements" they will claim is the availability of "100,000 jobs" for Filipinos in that country. Big deal! Those jobs are for caregivers who will take care of old people.

A "caregiver," if you still don't know, is the polite word for people whose job is to wipe the behinds of people too old to do it themselves, bathe them, eliminate in their beds, feed them and clean up the mess afterwards. Spaniards are people of other manners, "progressive" and rich countries don't want to do this disagreeable job, which is—no matter how you try to "humanize" it—the most menial, the most humiliating job of all. It is lower even than a laborer's or servant's job. In these are no takers for the job there. So Western countries import "caregivers" from this poor country like the Philippines to do the job for them. That is why there are many openings for caregivers in these countries.

Unlike here in the Philippines, where family members take care of their old people at home until they die, families in Western nations dump their senior citizens in nursing homes, to be cared for by caregivers—in most cases, poor foreigners—who have no attachment at all to their "patients." There are many such nursing homes in Western "modern" countries because the proportion of their senior citizens to their young ones is increasing.

Nursing homes are depressing places. In them, seniors are usually comatose, infirm, old people ready to keel over and croak. Every morning, the corpses of those who died during the night are carried out.

Nursing homes try to make life cheerful for their wards. This they do by holding parties and dances and games, but the old people know that their days are numbered. They are only waiting for their time to go. This depressing atmosphere affects the caregivers and is also time they become emotional wrecks themselves.

Few people are willing to become caregivers, but for poor people, like many Filipinos who cannot find other employment, a caregiver's job is a lifeline for their families. That is why congress came only from the poorest of the poor countries; they are people who are forced to accept the jobs that are there as no other jobs available for them. "Esprit acquisitive" (clinging on to unhappy habit), as we say in Filipino.

Why am I saying all these? Because I am sure GMA and her opinionleaders will boast that by visiting Spain, she was able to generate 100,000 jobs for Filipinos. I just want to inform Filipinos what kind of jobs these are, in due time, we will be known all over the world not only as a nation of domestics, laborers and prostitutes but also as a nation of caregivers or, as the more unkind foreigners label it, "caregivers."

Why have we made this low, a nation of heroes and freedom lovers enforced to "wiping other people's behinds"? Because our government is so incompetent and corrupt it cannot provide jobs for its countrymen here at home. So Filipinos are forced to seek jobs in other countries, but their families remain here.

The Philippine economy is kept afloat only by the earnings sent home by these overseas Filipino workers. Without them, our foreign currency reserves would disappear because public officials steal only businessmen, and they put themselves on the sweat and tears of poor Filipinos, squander foreign exchange on junkets—such as the one the GMA party just embarked on. Imagine how many millions of pesos in taxes have just been spent for the junket to the Vatican and Spain. How many hungry Filipinos would that money have fed?

Filipino workers die working for foreign employers in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere; they are beheaded in Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries, they fall from high-rise apartments in Singapore, they are raped by their employers in clandestine countries. That is because there are no jobs in their home country and they are forced to leave their families at home so one can earn a living in foreign lands.

GMA should provide jobs for her countrymen here at home instead of sending them away to take on humiliating jobs in other countries, and then bring it up on the earnings they send home.

* * *

It looks like the position of PNP chief, which will be vacated when Director General Arturo Lomibao retires next week, is a toss-up between Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon, deputy chief for administration, and Director Leonardo Firmo, chief of the directorate for comptrollership, which means he knows where the money of the PNP has gone and is going. Although he only has "one star," Firmo has the edge, according to insiders at Camp Crame. But Calderon is not the only five-star general vying for the top police job. The second highest ranking officer at the PNP be also is a three-star officer. The third-ranking officer is Director General Avelino Razon Jr., deputy chief for operations, is the third ranking officer but he is one year junior to the two others in the Philippine Military Academy. So he still has one year before retirement.

The important issue in the fight for PNP chief is whether the President will continue her revolving door policy, wherein senior officers with only a few months left before retirement are appointed chief. To keep promises, only to be replaced a few months later by another officer with a similarly short term left. With this policy, the PNP chief has no time to plan and make improvements in the police force. He has barely warmed his seat when his time to retire comes. No wonder the PNP is in such a sorry state.

Give unto Caesar

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I HEARD IGNACIO IBAYE ON RADIO TUESday night saying the Department of Justice would look into the unions of Ged and Iman that Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez violated when he filed an impeachment case against Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The usual suspect, Representative Tingson, was also moved to register his mouth—and his usual concern for the welfare of them—indignation at Iñiguez's affront. "We would like to see a strict implementation of the separation of Church and State," he demanded.

Never mind that the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines—whose political interventions during the time of Archbishop Fernando Capalla they took to be God's voice itself, particularly when the CBCP said, at the height of the "Hello Garci" scandal, that it saw no need for GMA to resign—has hauled up Iñiguez. Never mind that the entire CBCP—whose former head, Archbishop Capalla, kept telling the world that the 2004 elections were peaceful and fair—now says that Iñiguez has done fully consistently within Church canons, specifically its pastoral letter demanding the stopped pursuit of the truth about the lies election.

Mind only the gall of these people.

There is no one who believes in the Church and State" shit, who in God's very good name has been poaching on whose territory with increasing zeal? Bishop seems totally oblivious to the irony of his complaint about Iñiguez trying to be like Pope's predecessors. When was the last time the Pope, Hippie or Gibbs? Hippie, at least, is a born-free bishop or prince of the church. GMA is a John Worldwide or head of State.

If I recall right, GMA also cried in to the spokesperson of the last, and truly great, Pope John Paul II, despite the fact that his entire teachings run counter to hers. The Pope opposed the Iraq invasion; GMA embraced over it. The Pope opposed the death penalty; GMA championed it. The Pope called for morality in public life; GMA called for moving on to the face of electoral fraud. Yet GMA said the Pope was the country—despite that GMA violated what the sectoral dictates has but in Pope Opposition about cheating and fraud. Gloria replied that even then they were working to bishop her or hold her family hostage to their hot air.

Let's be serious about the separation of Church and State? Let's be sincere about the separation of ethics and common sense? Is it possible we can act as though the "Hello Garci" tape does not exist? Is it possible we can act that the crimes committed there can be excused as "legitimate struggle"? Is it possible that we can actually believe that we can continue to exist as a genuine democracy, a genuine nation, and a genuinely freedom-loving people having a false President?

Then, that issue is too illegally gotten. But all that means is that we cannot act in accordance to and GMA for it. It does not mean we cannot say it is basest to present her from holding public office, let alone the highest one in the country, and to keep her under tight watch. You can say that is what the Senate and the impeachment pleading to bomb schools and churches in Metro Manila to jail him. But you can't say he is wrong. You can't say he is wrong to say he is wrong from heading the anti-terrorism campaign as President. You can't say he is wrong to say he owes Church and State, just mind the separation between country and madness.

In fact, if I were to find any basis, legal or moral, with Iñiguez and the other citizens who want to impeach GMA, it is precisely that they want to impeach her rather than just sue her to impeach someone is to assume he or she is the rightful President, or holder of an impeachable office. That delicious house belongs in fact, who was at least an unspeakably unsavory and reduced title of President of this country, albeit one who equally unarguably, unmistakably and indisputably betrayed the public trust. You do not impeach an imposter, you just remove him.

Give unto Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's. But to those who are neither, just give them the door.

Roadblocks to impeachment

IMPEACHMENT IS ONCE AGAIN THE HOT KNOCK on the air. There has even formed a faction of impeachment complaint filers arranged in chronological order. Meanwhile the administration detractors are so confident as ever to impeach the hated will not succeed. There is a basis for this confidence. The roadblocks to impeachment remain strongly erected.

The force of these roadblocks, which perhaps should be characterized simply as a "hump" on the road, is the theory that no impeachment may be instituted while the former one remains unresolved. The argument is since the opposition filed a motion asking the Supreme Court to cause last year's complaint to be sent back to the Justice Committee, that complaint, while unresolved, prevents the filing of another complaint any more complainant.

Strangely, the argument is based on the provision which says "No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official more than once within a period of one year."

My simple mind simply reads: A document to be initiated under the provision must be one which is not already in the possession of the Congress. It cannot be initiated if it has not even been the power to propose an amendment to it. I am neither the Constitutional Convention nor Congress.

The provision speaks of a one-year limitation to initiating or simply starting a new proceeding. The one-year limitation does not no longer run. The law does not say "No impeachment proceedings shall be initiated against the same official for the same, or a first impeachment is not yet finally terminated." That is an amendment superfluous.

But, no road, the theory is not a "hump" on the road. It is a wall. Be ignored. Let's talk about real roadblocks instead.

The main roadblock, of course, is the legal numbers of 79 House endorsers. That number does not seem to be anywhere in sight. Last year, when the impeachment issue was much louder, the proimpeachment groups could gather only 31. Now, however, even the headlines do not seem to be loud at all. The biggest spike yet was made by Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez, and I disagree with those who say that a bishop has no Parliament to stamp his right to a citizen. That seems to be the theory coming from Malacañang. One wonders more and more what Constitution Malacañang reads. One would think that after having been roundly rebuked by the Supreme Court three times, the Bush team and the voice of Malacañang would look into the appropriate Constitution.

At my end, I doubt very much that even 20 more Bishop Iñiguezes will be able to help muster the needed 79. This bishop was to a stronger condition.

I believe that the difficulty of getting the desired 79 is ultimately rooted in the nature of the impeachment process. A couple of nights ago, I was watching a talk show where the host asked the guests whether they believed that the Peso dove into guilty of impeachable offenses. Most said, but they could only easily point to Gloria. But the nature of impeachment prevents to such that guilt is over the only decision there.

The impeachment process is not a judicial process but a political process. Its purpose is not to punish a malefactor but to protect the public from him.

When I say that impeachment is a political process, I mean that it is political in its very nature.

First, it is political in the sense that political parties/alignments very much a part of the process. In fact, some would say that historically the outcome of all impeachment attempts, whether in the United States or in the Philippines, has been dictated by political factors. Each legislator has, in interest, legitimate or not, to protect it. This is a real part about impeachment.

Second, impeachment is political in the sense that what is involved is not just a legal decision but also a policy decision. For that reason, the respondent may be impeached but found guilty in point of law, and vice versa. Impeachment is basically a political (not judicial) process.

Third, it is political in the sense that political alignments will be affected by the decision. Some may vote for the impeachment because they want to oust the respondent, but others may vote against impeachment because they want to protect the respondent.

Fourth, it is political in the sense that the decision to impeach or not to impeach is based on political considerations. Will the impeachment help or hurt the party in power? Will it help or hurt the opposition? Will it help or hurt the country?

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No longer charming and cute

AFTER GLORIA MACAPAGAL-Arroyo's look over the presidency on July 1, she declared in her first State of the Nation Address that she would eliminate the scourges of illegal gambling, illegal drugs, terrorist threats and insurgency. (Note that until recently, GMA's cherished thrust making a relentless campaign against poverty.)

In those days, the sight of a charming, diminutive figure flanked by towering mirrors effortlessly commanding the spotlight (symbolic of the invisible entertainment superstructure of the duly constituted political authority) were the main ingredients of one's boast.

Five years later, the problems of illegal gambling, dangerous drugs, terrorist threats and insurgency are still with us. And the diminutive figure, now suspected of having cheated in the last elections, is looking more like a ruinous purgatrix (in spite of efforts of a Malacañang hack), and the flanking figures now look more like hoodlums swearing their mostly big.

Exactly P1 billion has just been added to the bills of GMA's gaucho, including those of the "Hello Garci" variety for the daunting task of reaching the continued insurgency in seven years (extended to five years, two days later). Commission on its ideology has been disrupted in most parts of the world, but we have been grappling with the 100 problems for nearly four decades with an end in sight.

Republics in the 90th rung by, it will be three-two years from now, if 2004 and her Lilliputian attempt to "national Assembly" pinch the interests of Philippine society unable to dislodge her, no done to remain in our seats and shameful predecessor.

—CESARIO M. ... 41 Bahayan St., Philand Ex Village, Sampiloc, Las Piñas City

Population control will be kind to stray dogs

PHILIPPINE ANIMAL WELFARE advocates are right to speak out against the proposal to create to the position of (multi) electrocuting homeless dogs. ("Humane culling to stem dogs problem sought," PDI, 6/30)

Cats and dogs who end up in animal shelters have suffered so much: abandonment, neglect, abuse, separation from their human companions. Almost always it is a struggle to survive on the streets. If no good home can be found for them and the best we can offer them is death, then the least we can thank a kind one is young ones, without pain or fear—through intravenous injection of sodium pentobarbital.

The most efficient and humane way of addressing the homeless dog crisis, though, is to prevent them from being born in the first place. Spaying and neutering can prevent hundreds of 67,000 puppies from being born over six years.

Until the day when everyone spays or neuters their animals, euthanasia will remain a tragic necessity. But it doesn't have to be a terrifying one for the animals, who have already been through enough suffering. For a free "National Animal" guide on improving shelters and for information on passing spay/neuter legislation in your community, visit www.Helpusanimals.com.

—JOHN BALL, director, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (Peta) Asia-Pacific headquarters in Singapore

Doronila's speculations

RESPECTED DEPORTMENT OF DEBUNK "A counter plan to harbor violence" (PDI, 6/21/06) is full of speculations and malicious innuendoes against the Armed Forces of the Philippines in general and the ranks in uniform in particular. No wonder, the insurgency problem in our country is getting bigger and bigger; this is because of people who have very good writing skills but limited knowledge of the people they are making issues.

Doronila talks about "Enemy Lines" as if he has read this document. He talks about the government's counterinsurgency campaign as if he is one of its authors. He talks about soldiers as if he knows as if he was a soldier once. He talks about butchery and inhumanity as if he has seen brutal and violent death up close and personal. And he speculates on the evil within the ranks of the insurgent.

Doronila should be his duty to deal with rebut his writing.

—LIEUT. RUEL ... ...@...

Info drive on Philippine flag urged

DURING THE CELEBRATION OF the recent Flag Days from May 28 to June 12, the Philippine flag was really flying high all over the country, both in public and private establishments.

Unfortunately, some of our kababayans failed to display our flag in the proper manner. For example, some establishments placed the flag on the wrong side of others—on the right of the viewer instead of the left. Under Republic Act 8491 (the Act Prescribing the Code of the National Flag, Anthem, Motto, Coat-Of-Arms and Other Heraldic Items and Devices of the Philippines), the flag should be placed on the left.

Displaying the flag is not enough. I believe that it is also necessary that we conduct an information drive to make our people aware of the real meaning of displaying or hoisting the flag. Only then will we learn to respect, love and take pride in our national flag, a great symbol of our beloved country.

—ABRAHAM ADELBERTO NAVO, chairman of the board, Philippine Business Bank Inc., 100 Retail Ave., Ext. cor. 9th Ave., Grace Park, Caloocan City

People: the life of an avenue

IN REFERENCE TO REAL ESTATE columns about the diminishing sidewalks along Commonwealth Avenue ("The vanishing sidewalks," PDI, 6/22/06), I had the opportunity to travel to the Philippines for a vacation, everything along Commonwealth Avenue would be OK. That road is not just for vehicles; people use its sidewalks, leave sidewalks, lanes, campuses and intersections must be provided. Also, motorized and disabled-specific entry people "moving."

—MOISES VIÑAS, ...@...

UN to review program vs illegal arms trade

THIS WEEK THE GOVERNMENT OF THE Republic of the Philippines will join the rest of the world in a meeting at the United Nations in New York to discuss the illicit small arms trade.

There are 640 million guns in the world, with 8 million more made every year. Between 10 billion and 14 billion rounds of ammunition are made each year, enough to kill everyone on the planet twice over. Yet there are no global controls on the transfer of weapons to non-state actors.

Despite the enormity of this global crisis, it was not until 2001 that the United Nations met to establish the "Programme of Action"—a set of very basic measures to control guns in society. But it was not effective enough, and in the five years since its implementation, 1.4 million people have died by the bullet.

In the "Programme of Action" as reviewed only this July, governments need to go much further and agree on measures that will truly protect people from gun violence. Such measures will include global criteria to prevent the sale of arms to places where they may be used for human rights abuses.

The governmental will [illegible] to pave the way for negotiations. During that time, 12,000 people will die from gunshots. If they do not take the decisions necessary to improve the situation, the terrible toll will continue for [illegible] years.

—KEITH ALLAN ... director, Centre for Peace Education, Miriam College, [illegible] Philippine Action Network on Small Arms (Philanso)

Pacquiao is no Jose Rizal, the national hero

MANNY PACQUIAO NEEDS TO STOP TELLING Filipinos he is going to use his fights for the Filipino people. Pacquiao is representing himself and himself only. He is the only one getting rich. He even made money staging a sing out of him.

Pacquiao is being used as a "political prop" to shield Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo while she goes about undermining the Filipinos' [illegible] rights. From "Hello Garci" to "Hello Money" and now to "Hello Pogo".

But stand here? What has Pacquiao done for the economy?

Post Jose Rizal. He's been stripped of his [illegible]. Wake up, Filipinos! Enough with the popularity contest. Let's improve our economy.

—ADRIENNE UCCO, kapitapinoy@...

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Imelda: No compromise on ill-gotten wealth cases

By Joey A. Galdeza
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—FORMER first lady Imelda Marcos said she would not enter into any compromise agreement with the government to settle the ill-gotten wealth cases filed against her family.

The ousted strongman Ferdinand Marcos' widow, who attended the 113th city fiesta on June 30, said that entering into a compromise agreement through the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) would be tantamount to an admission of guilt.

"I don't like compromise. I don't want to compromise honor. I don't want to compromise the truth…," she told the reporters.

Earlier, PCGG Commissioner Ricardo Abcede expressed his intention to strike a compromise agreement with Ms. Marcos to end the long-drawn battle of the government to recover the so-called Marcos wealth, estimated to be between $5 million and $10 million.

But the former first lady said any settlement on the sizing of assets filed against her by the government must be settled in the "right and legal way."

"Even though those injustices have been done to us, I want it settled the right and legal way. There should be a legal resolution of this issue," she added.

The flamboyant former first lady, who, during the interview at her "Balantok" residence in San Jose here, was wearing a green-and-black pant suit with matching emerald earrings and an emerald pin, maintained that not a single centavo of government fund was misappropriated by then during the 20-year Marcos reign.

She said the dismissal of several cases filed against her and her family in different courts, including, her acquittal in a New York court, which she claimed to be the "trial of the century," were proofs that they did not amass their wealth illegally.

Of the 900 or so final cases filed by the PCGG against their family, the number is now down to less than 10, Marcos claimed.

She was optimistic that the remaining cases filed would also be dismissed.

Furthermore this lady, who turned 77 years old, made her own projection as to when the ants the family would file lawsuit branches cases. "I say that in two years time, these things will be over," she said.

Asked to comment on the second impeachment complaint filed against President Macapagal-Arroyo, Marcos said this would only lead to "division" among Filipinos.

"Enough is enough. Let us give the Filipinos a break and let us move forward," she said.

Asked if she would again request her daughter, Imee Marcos Rep. Imee Marcos, son to run for the Ilocos Sur, the former first lady said that her daughter is "intelligent enough" to know the right thing to do.

"But doing the right thing is not enough. We need to be whole… as a nation and as a people. Let us all be united," Marcos said.

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Ex-Cebu bank exec gets 1,000 years for estafa

By Frances Hapalican
PDI Region Bureau

CEBU CITY – A REGIONAL TRIAL Court in Cebu sentenced a former bank manager to prison terms of one 1,000 years for 45 counts of estafa through falsification of public documents.

In a decision promulgated on June 22, Judge Geraldine Faith Rosing of the Cebu RTC Branch 8 found Antonio Lozano, 55, former manager of Solidbank's Tabunok branch here, of despite Rs. Conspired, Acknowledged, guilty of pocketing P13.8 million from a client through forgery.

"We just learned his bond. It seemed that he was very sad when the verdict was read," according to the clerk of court, who requested anonymity.

The clerk of court said 1,000-it's total imprisonment period could be 1,220 years, since his conviction for every count of the 45 cases entailed a prison term of 10-20 years.

Solidbank was ordered to reimburse the bank P13.8 million, including P2 million in damages.

But Lozano has not been jailed since he posted bail when the case was filed in 1998. He paid P30,000 in bail for every count of estafa, totaling P1.4 million.

He would also remain free because he could still file a motion for reconsideration in Tuesday's decision, the clerk of court added.

Lawyer Eduardo Rosello, the bank's legal counsel, said the bank had immediately asked the court to cancel Lozano's bail bond and for his continued detention pending the hearing of the motion for July 5.

According to the witnesses, mostly bank employees, who testified in court, Lozano produced the P.8.8 million through the issuance of at least 29 manager's checks on various occasions that were debited from the account of a bank client, identified as Asuncion.

The witnesses claimed the funds would bump the documents out of the bank, usually at the clerk of court, who requested anonymity, was positioned to signed by Go. Soon it would come back later with the documents already signed.

The irregularity was uncovered when Go questioned the huge withdrawals from his account without his knowledge and demanded a refund from the bank.

Go testified during the trial that he was not the one who filled up the documents and that his signatures had been forged.

According to the clerk of court, the bank management refunded Go of his money and were after decided to sue Rosello, who was dismissed after the irregularity was discovered.

IMPORTED TOY
These boys marvel at the plastic toy from China, which are invading mom-and-pop convenience in Laguna, Region.

Tagbanua folk in Palawan get help from Finnish gov't

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—AN organization of the indigenous group Tagbanua became the first beneficiary of the small grants program in Palawan of the Embassy of Finland.

With a P700,000-grant, the Bataan E Kamping E Tagbanua Inc. (BET) built a processing center for the relief honey and culture nuts and other food items sold in a far-flung locations.

During her recent visit to Aborlan, Palawan, her first visit to the province, Ambassador Riitta Booth of the Embassy of Finland in Manila, was impressed with the group's accomplishments.

Booth said the fund Finland donated was well spent.

All the project funds in Bataan go Bataan, the Tagbanua association promised funds with their products and created her annual the facilities of the processing center.

Almost 85 percent of the members of Barangay Bataan are Tagbanua folk who rely on forest products to make a living.

They have the largest population of indigenous peoples in Palawan.

BET vice president Rebbino Dava said they were thankful to the Finland Embassy for the opportunity given to them.

BET has more than 300 members but only half came to the launch because others didn't have transitway to look after their farm jobs.

The main source of livelihood is gathering wild honey, rattan and almaciga from their ancestral domain in the forests of Bataan.

Booth said she hoped that with this little help "the farmers would be able to send their children to school."

Linda Wirth, director for the Manila Office of the International Labor Organization (ILO), joined the ambassador during the program.

The ILO staff members in Manila had helped facilitate the grant for the Tagbanua as part of its responsibility to monitor to promote ILO Convention 169 that upholds the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples. Adelle Zinnerio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

7 land mines found in Bicol

BUGA, CAMARINES SUR—LESS than a month after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared her to wipe out communist insurgents in two years, the police's Explosive Ordnance Division (EOD) have found seven land mines, three of which had been detonated, but not before the explosion, along the highway in Pili, Bicol.

Ninth Infantry Brigade spokesperson Lt. Col. Florante Diso said the recovery of the mines began at 8 a.m. Thursday after residents, who refused to name for security reasons, discovered the explosives hidden in the grass beside the highway.

Vehicles coming from other parts of Southern Luzon and headed for Albay usually traverse the road.

Jolo said the seven improvised, remote-controlled land mines, which were powerful than a grenade, were evacuated to a land mine explosives firm operated in the state-run Subic Bay.

During the earlier blast, a military service vehicle headed for Naga City in Camarines Sur was damaged while a member of the Army's 65th Infantry Brigade, identified as Pfc. Solomon Padilla, was seriously injured.

"Fortunately, the service vehicle was running fast. If not, there could have been casualties in the ambush, which were already penetrated by the NPA (New People's Army)," alleged Jolo.

Maj. Nonnen Rosario, chief of the AFP Civil Relations Unit in Bicol, assured the public that government forces would intensify patrols, checkpoints and to raise in the communities "so it would ensure the safety of residents and immediately respond in the people's security needs." Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

UPLB students boycott classes over tuition hike

LOS BAÑOS, LAGUNA—AROUND 200 students and workers from the University of the Philippines at Los Baños (UPLB) on Friday boycotted classes and led a rally against the proposed tuition increase during the opening of the UP Board of Regents (BOR) held at the UP Open University here.

Led by the University Student Council (USC) of the UPLB, the students called on members of the BOR to rescind plans to increase by more than 300 percent tuition in all UP units around the country.

Under the proposed scheme, the current P225-P300 charge per unit in the UP units in Manila, Diliman and Los Baños will be raised to P1,000 a unit while the P2,000 per unit in the UP Visayas, Mindanao and Baguio will triple to P600 a unit.

Maranan also said the university had also proposed to collect laboratory and energy fees from students to offset the tuition increase and would also install income bridge courses not covered.

"It is very unfortunate to note that the plan for a tuition increase in UP came at a time when the employees finished proposals of a salary increase for our personnel," said UPSC chair Ivy Maranan.

She said the proposed tuition increase would make UP education more expensive than most private educational institutions.

"That would defeat the purpose why the UP was created," she argued.

In June, UP units in Diliman and Manila-area increased tuition fees for incoming freshmen that amounted to P1,300.

Tuition increases in the UP College of Medicine was also recently approved from around P11,000 to P20,000," Maranan said.

She said the increases in school fees were largely caused by the unwanted 2005 national budget "which appropriated a huge chunk of the budget to debt servicing and military spending while cutting the budget for education." Jaime San Buenaventura, PDI Luzon Bureau

BANAO students rally against tuition increases.

BALUSAH RELIEF
The boy looks serious in the task of helping his mother bring relief goods they received after evacuating from their home in Barangay Ilang, Jolo, Sarangani, where Mt. Balusah's avalanche struck.

'Ambassador,' 'doc' strike anew, swindle wife of OFW by phone

By Carlo B. Gomez
PDI Region Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—THE FIFE OF AN OFW nurse Filipino worker lost P165,000 on four 21 to two unidentified swindlers who identified themselves as the "Philippine Ambassador to Dubai" and "a doctor," making her the third victim of the same modus operandi in just the past month.

Mary Jane Have Tilo, 34, of Libob, Pilar, Barangay Minandingan, told police that she received a phone call from a person who identified himself as "William Dolor," the "Philippine Ambassador to Dubai," at about 10 a.m. on Tuesday, police reports said.

Tilo told police had told her that her husband, who is working in Dubai, stabbed a fellow employee and that he had also been stabbed.

'Dr. Zuniga'

Later, another caller, who identified himself as "Dr. Zuniga," contacted her using cell phone No. 09157386675, and informed her that her husband had sustained back into the Philippines and that he was treating her husband.

The caller said P165,000 was needed for her husband's operation.

She said the caller asked her to send P60,000 to the AFM account of "Teresita Buiga," and P75,000 and P30,000 to "Fernando Soriano Quiapo" of Iloilo, Cebu through Western Union.

At about 5 p.m. of the same day, after sending the money, Tilo said how husband-in-law informed her that her husband was in good condition and had not been involved in any incident, contrary to the claims of the swindlers, police report said.

Police also said that on Tuesday, Annabelle Abon Lacson, 47, of Acacia Road, Villa Angela Jaen, reported to Precinct 4 that she received a phone call from a person who also identified himself as "Ambassador Golay" and informed her that her husband, who is a seaman, had killed his co-worker.

Another caller, the Tilo, one who identified himself as "Dr. Fred Ortiz," of Puerto Princesa City in Palawan, informed her that her son-running her husband for his release.

Lacson said the swindler had demanded P50,000 to finalize the quotation of her husband, prompting her to send on June 9 P24,000 to the account of one "Eric Joseph Rose" of Dumaguete, Cebu.

Contacted

After sending the money, she said she contacted the cellular phone number of Richard, to her surprise, his number could not be reached.

She said she contacted her husband and discovered that she had been swindled.

On June 2, a 63-year-old woman from Bacolod City also lost P60,000 in cash to two persons who identified themselves as a "doctor" and a "jailer" and informed her that her daughter working at the Los Angeles Medical Center in California, USA had been involved in a commotion and had killed her roommate-in-law. The story also turned out to be false.

In Sarangani, two mothers of OFWs, a retired employees of the Sarangani Provincial Hospital, a hospital guard and a video blockbuster all lost money to swindlers using the same modus operandi.

ROUNDUP

Trader, 3 kids killed

SAN MIGUEL, Bulacan—At least eight men and one child (gang) leader and his three children died from a Barangay Pandayan on Friday. Two suspects identified Daniel Sales and Ronnie Cortez, 30, and his children Jenelle, 10, Mark, 8, and Ramona, 4, were watching television (TV) when the gunmen entered the house. Two suspected and another three fled. Sales said the gunmen, who were heavily armed, also ordered the boys and again shot Abdul, Sales's wife Marie, was killed in the attack. Abdul, died instantly, while the daughter, Jennifer, died while being rushed to the hospital. Sales died during surgery. Ronnie, Mark and Ramona were also rushed to the hospital in Tabaradan City. Sales said they were still waiting for Glynn Gaddi to give an official statement to the police. Germain Rigor, PDI Central Luzon Bureau

Water for 1,000 kids

PAMPANGA, Pampanga—About 2,000 individuals will benefit from the installation of a submersible water system in the island of Barangay 4 in Guimaras town with the approval of a water project jointly by the Peace and Equity Foundation Inc. for Tabaldang Lapid Inc. Inc. According to outgoing Provincial Barangay Secretary Ramon Ramos, water is also filled again. Spring, a mechanical water line of the water system will supply 4,200,000 liter capacity have constant resources. Rhodora Vitale, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 die in smash-up

DAGUPCITY—Four persons, including a 10-year-old, were killed, while five others were injured in a smash-up in Dagupan-Alaminos highway on April 30, Friday. Dagupan police police chief Senior Supt. Benito Quinsay said the victims were going home after attending the baptism of another relative when the Toyota they were in was hit by a van. Quinsay said the victims were identified as Robert Bautista, The victims were Bautista, Jonah Bautista, 10, Jeffrey Bautista, 10, Jeffrey Bautista, 10, Jeffrey

2 cops, Army lieutenant killed in clashes

TWO POLICEMEN DIED AND FOUR OTHERS were wounded in an ambush staged by suspected New People's Army (NPA) rebels in San Andres town in Catanduanes on Saturday morning.

Chief Inspector Ariel Ignacio-Official said the dead — killed and another soldier was seriously wounded in an encounter between government forces and NPA rebels in Barangay Tuning, Gigmoto, Catanduanes.

Acting Catanduanes police director Senior Supt. Sandro M. Gozo identified those killed as Senior Insp. Alexander Ura, 43, head of the Provincial Police Mobile Group, and PO1 Joseph Tabo Jr., 25.

Both suffered bullet wounds in the head.

Wounded in the encounter were 1Lt. Rodel Lacopia, 43; PO3 Ernesto Gandinao, 39; PO2 Michael Rosario, 29; and PO1 Dominico Perez, 38, all members of the Provincial Police Mobile Group.

Lieutenant Colonel Constantino Quinsayson Mojica from Bicol identified the fatality in Catanduanes as 2nd Lt. Frederick Bernardo, head of the Charlie Company of the Army's 42nd Infantry Battalion.

Ilisa says are aide of Gen. Lucas who has been with over the command in an acting capacity on June 1.

Catanduanes police said the ambushed policemen were riding on four motorcycles and headed for Barangay Bacbac in San Andres, 76 km from the capital town of Virac, in separate vehicles at the time of the incident.

On their way back, an unknown number of rebels opened fire at their convoy less than 100 meters away from the cemetery in Barangay Mayagaway.

Ura, who was riding on the lead motorcycle, fell into a drainage ditch during the initial volley of gunfire, while Tabo landed dead with the vehicle.

The other policemen were hit by bullet fragments in different parts of the body.

On June 8, eight suspected rebels shot and killed PO2 Ferdinand Bobilet, and wounded PO1 Ramon Alfanco and a child hysterically identified as Bobilet's friend, in an encounter in Sto. Rosario, Pangantihon town, about 60 km from Virac.

Recently another two men were involved in security preparations for the holding of a civic-military action program in the village on June 27 when they were shot upon by 15 suspected rebels.

Bernardo described them as men encountered for the first time.

Some members of the Provincial Police Mobile Group, including Ura, were also riding on the vehicle that was ambushed by the rebels.

The wounded soldier was identified as 1Lt. Raul Bernardo.

The rebels escaped in different directions.

Ilisa said the NPA rebels suffered casualties, citing reports of traces of blood found along the escape routes. The report, however, could not be independently confirmed.

Last week, President Ramos paid Catanduanes a visit to inspect the effects of typhoon Ilisa, recently.

THE WIFE and brother of PO1 Joaquin Baloja are inconsolable as they mourn the loss of their loved one. MARIA CONCEPCION CAMPANILLO/CONTRIBUTOR

Cops among rebs' top gun sources, says exec

BUTUAN CITY—POLICE SUBJECTS in gun battles and successful rebel raids on their stations have made the Caraga police force one of the biggest suppliers of high-powered armament smuggled, a ranking Philippine National Police official said yesterday.

Chief Supt. Cesar Baraan, police regional chief, said that during the past six months alone, the New People's Army (NPA) took 35 lucrative rifles in end-to-end police encounters.

"I think that would make Caraga police one of the biggest arms suppliers for the NPA," Baraan told the Inquirer.

He admitted that his men have inadequate training in counter-insurgency but said the NPA made those targets because of their "prestige" function—the M-16s.

The M-16, which was originally designed by US-based Colt, has become the weapon of choice for combatants in many countries because of its rapid fire and lightness compared to other full-automatic assault rifles.

The police assistant has become vulnerable to ambushes because of M-16's desire to run away. The NPA has always made attacks because of that type of firearms," he said.

To spare policemen from KIA, casualties, Baraan said they would now be issued shotguns under a new antiguerrilla offensive.

"What will the NPA get if they raid our outpost? Shotguns? I think they will soon be demanded," he said.

Baraan said the land grab would no longer be interested to raid police stations only "to get shotguns" and that the possibility of suffering casualties.

"If we take off the cost-benefit circle, communists would no longer find it enticing our outpost locations," he said.

Rep. Sotero del Rio Gov. Vicente Emerenciano said the new armament plans would do more harm than good to the government's all-out war against the insurgents.

Emerenciano, chair of the Regional Peace and Order Council, said arming policemen with shotguns would even trigger more rebel harassment and encounters.

"The NPAs strike with 30-30s, M-16s and other high-powered firearms. How will our policemen be able to fight back if they are armed only with shotguns?" he asked.

Rather, however, said only those harassing police stations would be issued shotguns.

He said those assigned to the mobile groups would remain their M-16s.

"Policemen in stations are not supposed to be combatants," he said.

Ernesto Gallgani, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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DENR to plot land titles in peninsula

LUCENA CITY—ITS BEGUN the inquiries on the seething agrarian situation in Quezon province, particularly in the Bondoc Peninsula, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources protected office has initiated the plotting of all existing titles here.

"This is for all stakeholders to have a bird's-eye view of the situation. What are those titled properties, landowners and claimable and genuine titles? It seems that many stakeholders and government agencies concerned don't have definite idea of the total land area involved," Felipe Gana, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said in an interview here.

The survey, he said, outcome would help the Department of Agrarian Reform determine areas to be distributed to farmers under the government's Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP).

He said the surveying of allotments by the farmers and landholders would not help in the settlement of the conflict in the Bondoc Peninsula.

However, Ortiz admitted that the targeted of the project was being hindered by the limited availability of the land titles in plotting out owners.

"Most of the indicated documents in the old titles could no longer be deciphered, making the plotting more problematic," he complained.

He asked the landowners to fully cooperate in the project by bringing copies of their titles in Del Gesik for completion.

Jose Benito Mayo Victor Reyes, scion of the late Don Domingo Reyes, one of the biggest landlords in Bondoc, said the landholdings of his family had been fully supported the government.

"They can always refer to the Registry of Deeds and any other concerned government agencies," he said in a phone interview.

Alejandro Cruz, agrarian reform officer in the Bondoc area, said the land-plotting project would help those claimed land parcels for distribution.

However, he reported that most landowners would not voluntarily submit their titles to plotting activities.

"Some of the landowners would not want to divulge their land areas," Cruz said.

He said some landowners were observed resistance when their property was surveyed.

He said the Reyes family had already allowed the distribution of at least 326 hectares of their land in Barangays in the first two years.

"I just want to set the record straight that contrary to the public perception, the Reyeses have been very supportive of the agrarian reform program. We don't have any problem with the family," he disclosed.

Cruz said the Reyes clan had distributed 163 hectares in Barangay Catulin in Buenavista and a number of has in Barangay Bulong Wates in the same town.

"The Reyes children had also distributed several pieces of farm land in three more villages in Buenavista," he said.

He explained that the Reyes landholdings in San Narciso had become reduced because those the landowners multimillionaire that properties had been livestock farms ever since and that emerged from the CARP.

"I'm now the subject of certain allegations," Cruz said.

Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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Streets, churches, malls miss Sunday crowds as fans watch fight on TV

Front page 61

Leonardo Medenes...said they did not watch the fight.

Traffic was fairly light on Metro Manila streets and in cities as far away as Davao, apparently because people were glued to television sets to see Pinoy pride Manny Pacquiao slug Ricky Hatton.

Crime incidents in Metro Manila from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. yesterday—or around the time of the delayed telecast of the fight—were scarce, according to the National Capital Region Police Office.

The lives didn't spare Pinoy Dad Mangsaqui Arroyo.

Back from her weeklong European trip, Ms Arroyo returned yesterday in time to watch the fight on television in Malacañang.

She said Pacquiao's victory was "another moment of pride for the Filipinos." But her statement was not without political overtones: She said the nation needed "to look forward to Manny incorporating and persevering toward our goals—a strong economy, a stable political system and a prosperous society."

Earlier, Ms Arroyo said she would bestow on Pacquiao the country's first "Champion for Life" award.

For his part, the House of Representatives, which awarded Pacquiao the Congressional Medal of Achievement last year, will honor him with a new commendation when Congress resumes session later this month.

Prayers for Manny

In the City of San Fernando in Pampanga, cabana driver Ciprino Manio, 64, went to Mass and offered prayers for his boxer.

"Manny's my idol because he fights well and he's doing well in life," Manio said.

The fight was special, too, for Bobby Jones, a disc jockey in Tacloban City in Leyte. He said it helped him forget "my personal problems and those of the country."

In Pacquiao's hometown, around 2,000 people saw a delayed telecast of the fight at the air-conditioned Dionisio Santos Gym gymnasium.

"We lost hard," they chanted each time the Sarangani boy was stunned. "Kill him," another group shouted.

Skyhigh prices

When Lucio fell victim to the knockout punch, some were mild and stunned: "He has been knocked out. He has been knocked out."

But the libelous was still on his feet.

Skyhigh ticket prices prevented the average fulltime around the country Collectors in Quezon City from getting in to watch the match, but they did not leave disappointed.

For a few moments, they were able to gaze at the stars and look with a contact "Which Who" in shoes like and pandas.

Some "cousins" and cameras clicked away every time a major celebrity stepped on the carpeted VIP entrance of the coliseum.

Among the stars spotted were Gary "Abrenians, Aga Muhlach and Sandy Duncan, Bernadette Sembrano, Jinggoy Estrada and Bailie Gutierrez, Ariel Rodriguez—who played the role of the boxer in "Pacquiao the Movie"—and Henri Evangelista.

Politicians, too

Politicians were not far behind: Sen. Manuel Roxas II, who came with his wife actress Korina Sanchez; Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita; Representative Gilbert Teodoro, Prospero Pichay and Joel Villanueva, and Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr.

Some of the crowd had even supporting their P50 and P100 would buy them a ticket. They were shocked to find out that the cheapest ticket cost P320.

Still, others stayed, hoping that tickets would later be sold at discounted prices. But that did not happen.

Bernie I and I tickets were sold for P52,800 and P947,200, respectively, while Bayon 3 and 4 tickets cost P33,600. Lower Box tickets fetched P21,120, while Lower Box A and B were worth P7,920 and P2,640, respectively.

A cancellation

Construction foreman Peter Balbon, 36, brought along his wife Teresa, 38, and son Carlo, 6.

He thought it would only cost about P100 or so. He never expected it would cost so much," Teresa said.

Carlo seemed happy enough. "I saw Richard Gutierrez," the boy said.

Jun Cabrar, 27, a nurse, also thought his P50 would be able to get him in.

"I'd rather stay here and watch the stars," he sounded bluntly, laughing. "It's not every day that I get to see them in person."

Sprouting at nearly their presence felt in the coliseum restaurants, with barkers and amateurs mounted at conspicuous spaces, hustle after

A JUBILANT woman crowd celebrates the triumph of their idol Manny Pacquiao along Rizal Avenue in Manila. EDDA SANTOS

AT THE Philamlife Center in Baguio City, the spectators except all doors to watch the fight on a wide videoscreen.

FANS who couldn't afford the steep ticket prices and wait for the delayed telecast fill the lobby of the PICCC Mall in Davao City.

THE CROWD in front of multiscreen in an appliance store in Manila keeps close watch of the battle. RYAN LEE

THE USUAL scenes of Sunday malls in quiet from this giant shopping complex on Boxing Day. RAFFY LERMA

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French-German final seen with Brazil's debacle

Front page B1

(FCK), the World War I (1914-18) and World War II (1939-45).

All-European semifinals

This is only the fourth World Cup in which all four semifinalists are European teams, after 1934, 1966 and 1982. The last time this happened, 24 years ago, three of the current semifinalists were also among the last four—Italy, Germany and France.

This is the first all-European Final four since 1982 in Spain. Brazil's exit means that the Cup will have no South American representation in the last four for the first time since 1982. This marks the shift of the center of gravity of football to Europe.

With the disgraceful exit of the United States in the group stage of the Cup following its defeat at the hands of Ghana, the Cup becomes not only an all-European show but it also reiterates the global soccer map along the lines of Old Europe that US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld pitted against the New Europe of US allies, who sided with the United States in its "coalition of the willing" to the invasion of Iraq.

In soccer, Europe has found a stronger basis to connect trans-European unity and identity.

Germany and France are marching toward their final showdown, armed with confidence by their victories against two of the most formidable footballpowers—Brazil and Argentina—in the midst of a resurging German nationalism after the unification of Germany.

Turning point for France

Starting badly, France had struggled through Group C and appeared headed for an early exit. The turning point came with the 1-1 win against Spain, following which the French regained their flair and began to move toward peaking at the right moment.

In defeating Brazil, France rode on the talents of its captain, Zinedine Zidane, who lifted the team's game to the heights he set in 1998 that sank Brazil 3-0.

In Frankfurt, Zidane served a free kick to striker Thierry Henry, who was in the right place to volley the ball into the net. The goal came in the 57th minute. The French fought as Brazilian squad, overloaded with a galaxy of stars, including Ronaldo, Ronaldinho and Kaka, who failed to punch the French defense with their aggressive attacking style.

The French appeared to have completed the Brazilians with an opportunistic offensive strategy that took advantage of the Brazilian defensive gaps, exposed by their tendency to push relentlessly forward. Zidane went to and on the Brazilian midfield, and in the free kick, he found an opening in the right wing by lofting the ball to Henry, who was unmarked, giving him the space to strike.

Suspect Brazilian defense

The French midfielder, Patrick Vieira, had earlier spelled out the French strategy: He thought that the Brazilian defense was suspect because it left wide open spaces on the flank.

"It is one of their weaknesses," Vieira said. "It is an attacking team ... they will leave a space which we can exploit. In the attack, they create a lot of chances, and create a lot of goals. But we should not just defend. We need to impose ourselves and attack."

The Brazilian coach, Carlos Alberto Parreira, said, "We didn't think we would leave before the final but we have to face it. France played very well, they were more patient and their victory was a deserved one. We had talented players, we worked hard but there was something missing."

Germany's 4-2 victory against Argentina was not as one-sided as the score indicated.

Argentina deployed free-flowing offensive and controlled the ball for two-thirds of the first half. It scored 1-0 in the 49th minute. The German evened the score, 1-1, in the second half. The score was tied after 120 minutes. After the penalty, the game settled down to a showcase on penalties, falling back on their tenacity, the Germans score duel the Argentinians.

A feeling of invincibility

The Germans enter the semifinals with a feeling of invincibility after going through the bruising match with Argentina and a more impressive record than the French in the group-eliminations games.

They find in that year's World Cup a medium of expressing their new patriotism without reviving memories of Nazi nationalism in World War II.

Demarcation and betrayal of the World War II, the former West Germany worked assiduously to reconstruct a new national spirit when it won the World Cup by beating Hungary 3-2 in the early post-war years.

They have refrained from an exuberant display of nationalism over their economic success, culminating in the reunification of Hitler's out of the 1936 Berlin Olympics to demonstrate Germany's political and military power.

For the first time since reunification, the former two Germanies are competing in the World Cup under a single flag. All through the elimination rounds, the Germans wore their nationalism on their sleeves as they celebrated each triumph, without the previous inhibitions.

Abalos: Why include me in impeachment …

By [illegible] A1

"I'm very shocked with the recommendation to impeach Commissioner Borra. I'm doubly shocked that they want to include me," Abalos said in a telephone interview with the Inquirer.

After several adjournments from the Impeachment Court, the Ombudsman announced on Friday it had adopted a resolution containing factual findings which the House of Representatives would use to open impeachment proceedings against Election Commissioner Jaime Borra.

The high court had given the Ombudsman until June 30 to resolve its investigation of the liability of the poll officials who approved the deal.

The Ombudsman said Abalos and the rest of the commissioners who approved the award of the contract to Mega Pacific e-Solutions Inc. were still being investigated. Two and a half years ago, the Supreme Court voided the deal, saying the Comelec had disregarded the law and its bidding procedures.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said it was not fair to single out Borra because all those who took part in the contract should be charged.

Apart from Abalos and Borra, retired Commissioners Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier, Ralph Lantion and Mehol Sadain, and current Commissioner Florentino Tuason Jr. approved the contract on April 15, 2003.

Augusto Lagman, the main complainant in the Mega Pacific deal, named Abalos on the list of poll officials to be recommended by the Ombudsman for impeachment.

"Abalos and all the other commissioners who adopted the resolution should be impeached," Lagman said earlier.

Adamant

Until yesterday, Abalos remained adamant that the Comelec had done nothing wrong.

"No graft and corruption attended the bidding process," he insisted.

Abalos claimed that the deal's original price of P1.3 billion was arrived at during the term of his predecessor, former Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo.

He claimed that during his term, the amount was lowered to P1.2 billion.

Abalos said the Comelec shouldn't be blamed because the machines were unreliable. No less than the Department of Science and Technology had certified that the machines were 100-percent accurate, according to him.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the Ombudsman's conclusion holding only Borra liable for the Mega Pacific automation deal was proof that Abalos was unreachable.

"That is what we call selective justice. Maliw ka sa [illegible] ka sa [illegible]. Ang [illegible] ang [illegible] ng [illegible] ng [illegible] ng

MANNY Pacquiao lands a hard left on Oscar Larios's face during their super featherweight bout. (AFP/GETTY IMAGES)

Larios gains respect for tough stand

By Francis Cabeza
(print)

THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON THE Saturnina Cidlaranas wanted darkened his face before the super featherweight match between Manny Pacquiao and Oscar Larios was set yesterday.

Twelve rounds, two knockdowns and a hundred maimed punches later, there were two people the crowd gave a rousing ovation to.

Pacquiao made good on his promise to win, Larios made his point clear.

"I did not come here just to put up a good fight," Larios said through an interpreter. "I came here to win."

Larios did not manage to get the victory he had sought, one which would have pushed his career to unseen heights. Instead, he stood on the wrong end of a lopsided unanimous decision after the bout, his left eye swelling and blood dripping from cuts above and below the same eye.

But he finished standing, which isn't something legendary compatriots Marco Antonio Barrera and Erik Morales would say almost themselves in their defeats to the Pacman.

"Before the fight, people were saying I was going into the lion's den," the 29-year-old Guadalajara, Mexico, native told reporters after the fight. "But I put up a good fight."

"Mr. knew Manny Pacquiao was a great champion but I'm proud of my fighter," said Larios Golden Boy Promotions. "He showed a lot of heart."

The former 122-lb world champion was supposed to be grossly overmatched against Pacquiao, who is starting an iron-fisted reign in the 130-lb ranks.

He was supposed to have a glass chin, one that stood no chance against the Filipino ring icon's pet left straight—a weapon that snapped a tough Barrera in the 11th round in 2000 and, for the first time, the granite-hard Morales on 8 May this year.

Pacquiao hit Larios several times solidly with that left straight. For good measure, the Filipino peppered the Mexican's face with his now formidable right cross. Each time, Larios managed to stay on his feet and weave out of trouble with accurate counter-punching.

And the two times he hit the canvas—one in the seventh and the other in the 12th...he got up quickly with hardly a wobble in his legs.

He remained so quickly from every Pacquiao onslaught that even Freddie Roach was amazed.

"Larios took a lot of shots from Manny and they were good solid shots," said Roach. "He really surprised me."

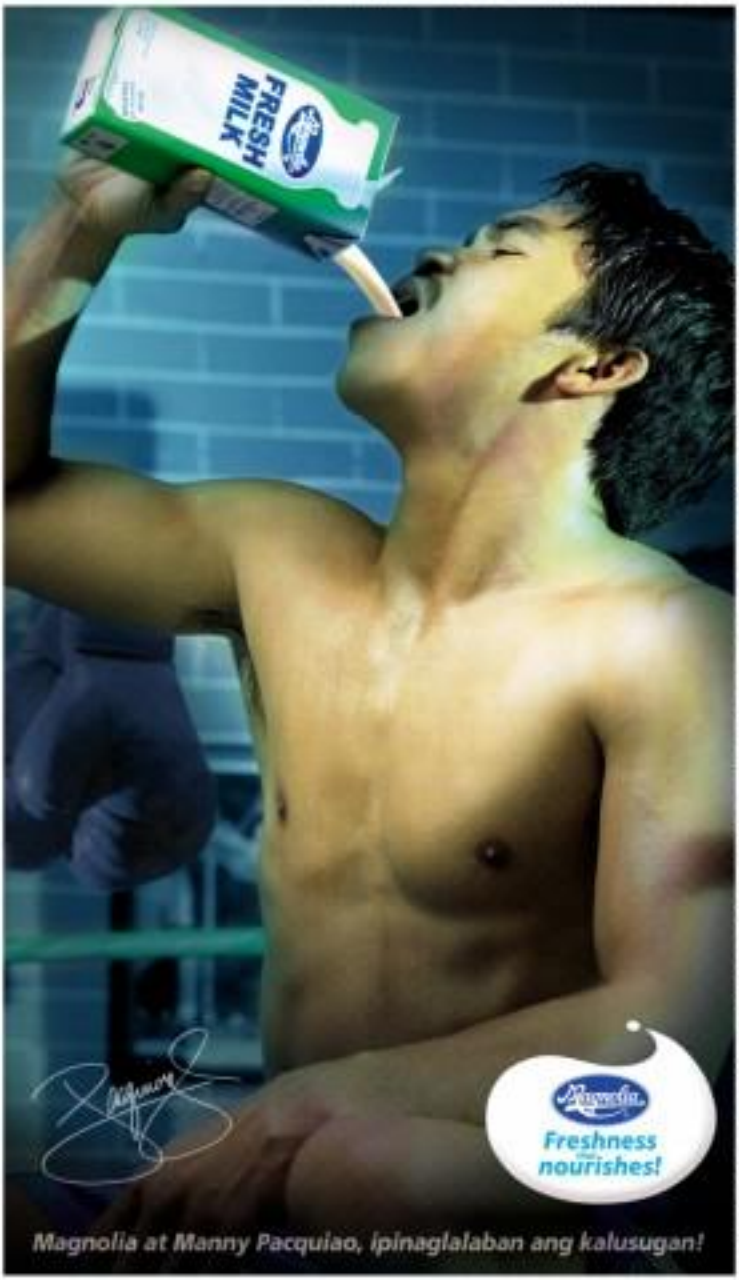
Pacquiao admitted that he didn't really put a lot of heat on Larios, saying he was content with keeping control of the match and reserving his energy to strike with enough sting time to prevent the Mexican challenger from landing a lucky punch.

But that was not what the huge crowd at the Big Dome saw.

"The fans saw a good fight between two brave warriors," Mendoza said after a post-fight press conference.

The fans also saw a Mexican warrior who refused to talk under the pressure of facing an opponent with an already fat pedigree, hospitalized a handful by the fact that he was fighting on home grounds.

They saw a proud, unyielding boxer who gave new meaning to the word fighter.



Manny...

From page A1

competition.

But it was a present that the country's favorite son nearly failed to gift-wrap.

Larios, the former two-time world champion, was not the unrefined lamb Pacquiao's camp had hoped he would be for this homecoming fight-of-sorts.

The 29-year-old ring veteran surprised everyone as he applied pressure on Pacquiao early on and pinning the Filipino on the ropes in the third round and nearly taking him down.

Larios's shocking tenacity, however, also stirred out to be the beginning of his downfall.

"I felt that I could knock him out [after the third round] and I stopped listening to my corner," Larios said through an interpreter in the post-match press conference.

"He started fighting [the same] fight after the third round," said fitted Mendoza, Larios's agent and adviser. "He lost his head thinking he could knock Manny Pacquiao over."

Suckered into a brawl, Larios gave Pacquiao the stage he needed to do what he did best: Showcase a natural flair for slugging it out and finding a divided caution with a display of raw speed and punching power.

A country behind him

With the crowd—and an entire country...cudgeling behind him, the 27-year-old superstar slipped out from under the weight of Larios's third-round onslaught and unleashed a sharp combination that opened a cut under the Mexican's left eye.

"For a while, I was a little bit concerned," said Freddie Roach, Pacquiao's trainer. "But Manny recovered well after that."

"He hit me hard, but I wasn't that hurt," Pacquiao said. "In fact, I was able to get out of the ropes quickly after that. Hearing the crowd chanting my name helped. I knew I couldn't let [our] country/crowd down."

"When he came back to the corner after the round, I told him not to get caught sleeping on the ropes again," Roach recounted.

By the time the ninth round came along, Pacquiao was certainly wide awake. He feared left straights unerred to find its range and his right cross, a weapon developed by his camp for his two previous fights against Erik Morales, came into play.

"He was just counting in the early rounds and he did not open up the best until the ninth round," said Roach.

Pacquiao unleashed rapid combinations to the body and the head that expressedly rocked Larios from the ninth round onwards, giving the Guadalajara native a sample of his much talked about power and speed.

After bringing Larios in his knees in the seventh, Pacquiao kept up the pressure. In the 12th round, he threw a left arm-straight to the head before unloading another flurry that had Larios wound on the floor.

Larios: Speed beat me

"Manny's a great fighter, he beat me with his speed," said the former super two-weight champion of the world.

The only thing faster than Pacquiao's punching fluency, it seemed, was Larios's ability to come back after every barrage, withstanding everything the Filipino threw at him to force the fight to go the distance. That was the Larios fight plan, to force an upset through the scorecards.

But Pacquiao still managed enough to seal a points victory—the three judges had it all for the champion as: 117-110, 120-108 and 120-108—even if it wasn't quite the clean-bang performance the Filipino's camp had foretold during pre-fight interviews.

Partly, it was because, as Pacquiao said, he didn't go full-steam against Larios.

"I knew I was in control of the match, leading on points, and I did not want to risk being caught by a counter [between my] straight punch and with a lucky punch," Pacquiao (32-3-2) said.

"If I pushed a little harder, I think you all know what the result would have been," he added, hinting that Larios (36-5-1) would not have lasted the distance.

It was also because Larios seemed to have the stars aligned for him yesterday.

Not only was Pacquiao far from the form that allowed him to knock Morales out early this year, but Larios himself seemed to have benefited greatly from the three-month preparation he underwent for the bout.

"Larios wouldn't have fought a better fight than he already did [yesterday]," Roach said. Larios earned $450,000 for his effort while Pacquiao, who only prepared for six months for yesterday's tilt, picked up a cool $1 million.

Simple math proves the brotherhood of man

NEW YORK—IT'S ENOUGH NATURE FOR people to wonder about their ancestors—who they were, where they lived, what they were like. Public interest in "roots" themselves is the stamp of history and position throughout in the arch of human existence.

But few people realize just how intricately that web connects them not just to people living on the planet today but to everyone who ever lived.

With the help of a mathematics, a computer scientist and a supercomputer, Steve Hsu—whose 2002 book "Shopping Across History" traces the history of the species since its origins in Africa more than 100,000 years ago—has calculated just how interconnected the human family tree is.

Hsu and his colleagues have found that if you go back about 5,000 to 7,000 years ago, **everybody living today has exactly the same** set of ancestors. In other words, every person who was alive at that time is either an ancestor to all 6 billion people living today—or their line died out and they have no remaining descendants.

How can this be?

Doubling back

It's simple math. Every person has two parents, four grandparents and eight great-grandparents. Keep doubling back through the generations—30, 32, 64, 128—and within a few hundred years you have thousands of ancestors.

It's nothing more than exponential growth combined with the facts of life. By the 15th century, you've got a million ancestors. By the 11th century, you've got a billion. Sometime around the 9th century—just 45 generations ago—the number tops a trillion.

But wait. How could anybody—much less everybody—alive today have had a trillion ancestors living during the 9th century?

The answer is, they didn't. Imagine there was a man living 1,200 years ago whose daughter was your mother's 26th great-grandmother, and whose son was your father's 35th great-grandfather. That would put him on two branches on your family tree, one on your mother's side and one on your father's.

Never enough

In fact, most of the people who lived 1,200 years ago appear on two twice, but thousands of times on our family trees, because there were only 100 million people on Earth back then. Simple division—a trillion divided by 200 million—shows that on average each person back then would appear 5,000 times on the family tree of every single individual living today.

But things are never average. Many of the people who were alive in the year 800 never had children; they don't appear on anybody's family tree. Meanwhile, more prolific members of society would show up many more than 5,000 times on a list of people's trees.

Keep going back in time, and there are fewer and fewer people available to put on more and more branches of the 6.5 billion family trees of people living today. It is mathematically irrefutable that at some point, there will be ancestors who appears at least once on everybody's tree.

The reason that when Madonna, Jesus or Cleopatra claim to be children of Abraham, they are all bound to be right. The also means that all of us have ancestors of every color and creed.

Sharing ancestors

"The number the languages we speak or the color of our skin, we share ancestors who planted a tree on the banks of the Yangtze, who first domesticated horses on the steppes of the Ukraine, who hunted giant sloths in the forests of North and South America, and who labored to build the Great Pyramid of Khufu," Olson and his colleagues wrote in the Journal Nature.

They also answered link in another editorial group among your millions of forbears, and you share ancestors with everyone in that group. In everyone who reproduced with somebody who was born far from their own home—every sailor blown off course, every young man who set off to seek his fortune, every woman who left home with a trader from a foreign land...as long as they had children, they helped weave the tight web of brotherhood we all share. AP

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There's a king, pope, star in your family tree

JUST SAY "YES"!

Homepage A1

parent and King Harold, conquered by William at the Battle of Hastings.

Shields also descends from five popes, a whole mess of early New England settlers, and the royal houses of virtually every European country. Her 10th cousin once removed Niccolo Machiavelli and conquistador Hernando Cortes as ancestors.

What is it about Brooke? Well, nothing—at least genealogically.

Even without a documented connection to a notable forebear, experts say the odds are virtually 100 percent that every person on Earth is descended from one ruler or prosperous ancestor.

"Without of people have genetic discovery from medieval royalty," said Dr. Derek Morrison, a genealogy enthusiast and professor of computer science at Dublin City University in Ireland. "The number of people with unprovable descent must be massive."

Thousands of nobodies

By the same token, for every king in a person's family tree, there are thousands and thousands of nobodies whose births, deaths and lives were completely unrecorded by history. We'll never know about them, because until recently civil records were a rarity for all but the noble classes.

It works the other way too. Anybody who had children more than a few hundred years ago is **likely to have millions** of descendants today, and quite a few humongous ones.

Take King Edward III, who ruled England during the 14th century and had nine children who survived to adulthood, leaving his descendants downthrones are presidents (George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, John Quincy Adams, Zachary Taylor, both Roosevelts), authors (Jane Austen, Lord Byron, Alfred Lord Tennyson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning), generals (Robert E. Lee), scientists (Charles Darwin) and actors (Humphrey Bogart, Audrey Hepburn, Brooke Shields). Some experts estimate that 60 percent of England's present population descends from Edward III.

Twist of fate

A slight twist of fate could have **prevented the existence of all of** them. In 1330, the close adviser and probable lover of Edward II, Piers Gaveston, was murdered by a group of barons who were threatened with their king's inefficient rule. The next year, the beheaded king produced the son who became Edward III.

Had Edward II been killed along with Gaveston in 1312—a definite possibility at the time—Edward II would never have been born. So matilda's have produced the line of descent that ultimately branched out to include all those presidents, writers and Hollywood stars—not to mention everybody else.

Of course, the only reason we are talking about Edward III is that history remembers him. For every medieval monarch there are countless long-dead nobodies whose intrigues, peccadilloes and luck have severed the course of history simply by determining whose, when and with whom they reproduced.

The longer ago somebody lived, the more descendants a person is likely to have today. Hundreds or even thousands of generations ago, the founder of Islam, appears on the family tree of every person in the Western world.

Lineage

Some people have actually tried to establish a documented line between Muhammad, who was born in the 6th century and the medieval English ancestors, and thus to prove if not all people of European descent.

Nobody has succeeded yet, but one proposed lineage comes close. Though it runs through several dead ends and unproven attitude, the line illustrates how time of descent can wander down through the centuries, connecting famous figures of the past to **ones of the people living today.**

The proposed genealogy runs through Muhammad's daughter Fatima, her husband Ali, also a cousin of Muhammad, is eventually by Shiite Muslims the legitimate heir to the leadership of Islam.

Ali and Fatima had a son, al-Hasan, who died in 670, whose **three generates later, his ninth** great-grandson, Ismail, carried the line to Europe when he became the imam of Seville.

Many genealogists dispute the connection between Muhammad and Ismail, claiming that it includes fictional characters specifically invented by medieval genealogists trying to link the ebbasid dynasty, founded by Ismail's son, to Muhammad.

No good evidence

The Abbasid dynasty was continued for making Seville a great cultural center at a time when most of Europe was mired in the Dark Ages. The line ends in that dynasty was supposed to have had a daughter named Zaida, who is said to have changed her name to Isabel upon converting to Christianity and marrying Alfonso VI, king of Castile and Leon.

But there is no good evidence documenting that Isabel, who bore one son by Alfonso VI, is the **same person as Zaida.** So the line between Muhammad and the English monarchs probably breaks **against at this point.**

But if we give the Zaida/Isabel story the benefit of the doubt too, the line eventually leads to Isabel's 59th great-granddaughter Maria de Padilla (though it skips one, counter yet another potentially fictional character in the process).

Maria married another king of Castile and Leon, Peter the Great. Their great-great-granddaughter was Queen Isabel, who funded the voyages of Christopher Columbus. Her daughter Juana married a Habsburg, and eventually gave rise to a Medici, a Bourbon and long line of Italian princes and dukes, spreading the Muhammadan line of descent all over Europe.

Finally, 12 generations from Muhammad, you reach an Italian princess named Marina Doldovski.

Her granddaughter is Brooke Shields. AP

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Ex-Caloocan cop wanted for murder in RP deported by US authorities /A28

MMDA wants to turn Metro into wireless community

By Edmar C. Tandoc Jr.

IMAGINE THERE WERE[illegible] CAMERAS AND sensors installed in key streets in the metropolis to monitor and report traffic jams and flooded areas—all in real time.

Motorists[illegible] in Metro and Jorge in easily monitor the number of public vehicles in particular routes compared to the volume of passengers.

Mundaluyong push through—depending on the budget of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority—these[illegible] sophisticated technologies would soon find their way to streets[illegible] thereafter.

"We need technology to improve our services," MMDA chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday in his weekly radio program[illegible].

Digital city

Bayani said he got the idea from Taipei in Taiwan, where he had just attended a three-day conference with officials from other countries about creating "digital cities." Taipei is considered one of the biggest Wi-Fi communities in the world.

The conference encouraged community leaders to take advantage of broadband wireless technologies, like Wi-Fi (for At The Barrio School), to enhance emergency response, improve government service and lower telecommunication costs.

"I want to start this project in three to four months. I hope we can fully implement this before Christmas," Fernando said in his program.

He told the[illegible] they would soon start talking with companies for the installation of Wi-Fi[illegible] to key streets in[illegible] Manila.

He said wireless connection would enable MMDA head officers and response units to quickly monitor—using wireless cameras which will be installed in key areas...enable congestion and even flooding in key areas in the metropolis.

"We can even put sensors to monitor if our flood control pumping stations are functioning or not," Bayani added.

Taking his vision further, Fernando said they could even put chips on public utility vehicles to know the still shaky implementation of the Unified Fare Matrix System.

He said with the chips, the MMDA could monitor how many buses were passing through a certain access point, giving the agency the accurate volume of traffic in a given area.

"Using wireless cameras, we can see the volume of passengers, say in Cubao. Then, we can deploy more buses there," the MMDA chair added.

More efficient setup

He said this[illegible] setup would be "more efficient" for the agency, which is still troubled by large[illegible].

Fernando admits the new project is vastly different from previous MMDA ideas, which had been frowned upon by many as basic[illegible] if not primitive, like the erection of concrete barriers and pink railings and even the use of pink cloth in controlling oncoming buses.

The MMDA official, however, could not say just how much[illegible] his new idea would require. "We will have to check first how much these technologies cost," he said in an interview after his radio show.

IN THE KNOW

SHORT FOR "WIRELESS FIDELITY," Wi-Fi is a way to connect electronic devices such as computers and personal digital assistants (PDAs) to each other without the use of wires. Wi-Fi connects to our existing technologies called IEEE802.11a, 802.11b or 802.11g to provide this connectivity. A Wi-Fi network can either connect computers to each other or to the Internet.

A Wi-Fi hotspot is an area where wireless technology from cities and is available for customers use. Within these hotspots, devices with Wi-Fi connectivity can use the[illegible]—usually for free. These hotspots are now common in places such as airports and coffee shops. The most common use for these hotspots is for people with Wi-Fi-enabled laptops and PDAs to gain access to the Internet.

The range of these Wi-Fi networks vary depending on whether the networks is in an open environment, is hampered by walls and furniture. On the average, it provides a range of within 75 to 150 feet in a typical office or home setup. Speed of data transmission gradually deteriorates as the distance between the main access point and the device increases.

From: http://www.wi-fi.org
http://www.wifihotspotlist.com/faq.html

QC gov't building new hospital

By CJ Yap

A FREE HOSPITAL OFFERING A COMPLETE line of medical services will soon rise in Quezon City.

The Quezon City government has announced the construction of the Batasan Doctors Hospital on Congressional Avenue in Project 7.

To be headed by Dr. Annie de Leon, the hospital will[illegible] a complete line of specialized medical services enough to serve the people in the area.

It will offer clinical (medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, surgery and family medicine), ancillary (clinical laboratory, radiology and pharmacy), emergency and outpatient services, according to[illegible].

The hospital's mission, according to De Leon, is to offer patients affordable and competent medical services.

Once completed, it will become the fifth hospital in Quezon City which is billing itself as a health and wellness hub. Of the 10 hospitals in the city, seven are owned, including the Quezon City General Hospital.

All in all, they have a combined bed capacity of 9,000, not including 55 health centers, 16 sub-health centers, of which four are maternity clinics spread out in the city's[illegible] districts.

Mayor Feliciano Belmonte, the other day said there were also plans to augment the facilities of the QC General Hospital to turn it into a world-class medical center.

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[illegible]

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July 5 - 7

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WEDNESDAY, 5 JULY

(EVERY NATION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE)

PAMPUDONG CSR: The sessions focus on a company's core CSR values and strategies and engage CEOs and other key audiences in discussions designed to inform, inspire and engage. Focus includes integrating core CSR values, internal processes and systems, and how these may result in sustainable business operations and CSR. The call to action is for companies to integrate CSR activities into their core businesses.

8:00 a/n — Conference Registration (Open to the Public)
9:00 a/n – 11:00 a/n — Opening Ceremonies

- Opening Remarks and Overview by VICTORIA P. GARCHITORENA, Chairperson, LCF and President, Ayala Foundation
- Taking CSR to Heart by JOSE F. LEVISTE, JR., Chairman/President & CEO, Mirant Philippines
- Introduction of Keynote Speaker by ROBERTO R. CALINGO, President, LCF and Executive Director, Mirant Philippines Foundation
- Keynote Address by DR. EMMETT J. D. CARSON, President and CEO, the Minneapolis Foundation and Former Chairman Council on Foundations (USA)

Morning Plenary: CEO Perspectives on CSR

DR. ROLANDO B. HORTALEZA, *Chairman & CEO, Splash Group of Companies*
JOSE L. CUISIA, JR., *President, The Philippine American Life & General Insurance Co.*
ROBERTO E. ABOITIZ, *Chairman, Aboitiz Equity Ventures*

11:30 am – 11:35 am — Luncheon Plenary Registration (By Invitation Only)
11:35 am – 2:00 pm — Luncheon Plenary: The CEO Challenges to Sustainable CSR
Local Meeting of the MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES and the MAKATI BUSINESS CLUB in partnership with the League of Corporate Foundations

- Welcome Remarks & Session Overview by EDGAR O. CHUA, Chairman, AMP CSR Committee and Country Chairman, Shell companies in the Philippines
- The World Bank Message by JOACHIM VON AMSBERG, *Country Director, The World Bank*
- CSR Roadmap by IMARU DU G. ERNI, *LCF Advisory Council Member and Executive Director, Petron Foundation*

Call to Action
JOSE F. LEVISTE JR., *Chairman/President & CEO, Mirant Philippines*
RICARDO I. ALCANTARA, *Chairman, Petron Corporation*
FERNANDO ZOBEL DE AYALA, *President & COO, Ayala Corporation*

Closing Remarks
ATTY. RICARDO J. ROMULO, *Chairman, Makati Business Club*

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm — (Plenary) Philippine CSR Report: The Private Sector Response to Poverty Alleviation by ROBERTO R. CALINGO, President, LCF and Executive Director, Mirant Philippine Foundation

- UN Global Compact and the UN Millennium Development Goals Declaration by MILENKA K. NOBLE, *United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Philippines*
- Taking the Global Compact to Heart by PEDRO E. ROXAS, *Chairman, CAEP Group Corporation*

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm — Breakout Session Registration (Open to the public)

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm — Breakout Session 1 in partnership with the Philippine and Association of Filipino Franchisers

- BS 1.1: Young CEOs & Entrepreneurs: Towards a More Integrated & Sustainable CSR
- BS 1.2: Role of HRD in Integrating CSR into the Core Business in partnership with the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines
- BS 1.3: BQ (Spirituality Quotient): Living One's Value in the Workplace in partnership with the Women's Business Council and Bishops-Businessmen's Conference

4:30 pm – 5:30 pm — Small Group Discussions

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm — Fellowship Night Registration (By Invitation Only)

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm — Fellowship Night Cocktail Reception by Petron Foundation

THURSDAY, 6 JULY

(EVERY NATION LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE)

CHANGING CSR MINDSETS AND PRACTICES: The sessions focus on internal key success factors by engaging the senior management level and those who decide beyond the CEO on a company's strategic CSR directions and implementation. The call to action is to change the mindset and practices of the direct implementers of an organization's CSR programs towards conducting a more effective, efficient and sustainable CSR.

7:30 am – 9:00 am — (By Invitation Only) CEO Breakfast on the Estonian Trust Operation in partnership with EDAI-The Stakeholder Relations Firm and Edelman Asia-Pacific
Speaker: BOB GROVE, *Managing Director, Southeast Asia, Edelman Singapore*

8:00 a/n — Conference Registration

9:00 a/n – 11:30 a/n — Recap of Day 1, Overview of Day 2

- Launch of the CEO Perspectives on CSR and the LCF CSR Casebook, "Taking CSR to Heart" by the LCF Research Committee led by LYDIA BARNES-ENRILE, *LCF Advisory Council Member and Chairperson, Santiento Foundation*
- Plenary: Global and Local Challenges to CSR Integration – The Business Case for CSR, ANNE-MARIE HURLEY, *Founder, Models of Success and Sustainability and Director, CSR Summit 2005 (AUSTRALIA)*

Panel for Local Companies in Transition:

Ma. Cecilia L. Alcantara, *President, Coca-Cola Foundation Philippines*
Marilou D. Erni, *Executive Director, Petron Foundation*
Salvacion G. Belen, Jr., *Chairman, Belo-Belen Foundation*

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11:30 am – 12:00 nn — Luncheon Plenary Registration (By Invitation Only)

12:00 nn – 2:00 pm — Luncheon Plenary: Creating Sustainable Value with CSR - Conceptual Framework by ROBERT DF QUELIN, *Deputy Managing Director, EDAI-The Stakeholder Relations Firm*

Creative Panel:

DAVID GUERRERO, *Chairman and Chief Creative Officer, BBDO Guerrero Ortega*
JEFFREY O. TAMAYAO, *Head, Community Relations/CSR Programs, PR Division, Globe Telecom*

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm — Breakout Session Registration (Open to the Public)

2:30 pm – 4:30 pm — Breakout Session 2: Making CSR Happen – Role of the Strategic Business Units

- BS 2.1: Role of Finance: Financially Sustaining the CSR Efforts in partnership with the Financial Executives of the Philippines
- BS 2.2: Supplier Engagement: How Can Corporations Engage Suppliers in Solving Key Social Issues
- BS 2.3: Role of Health, Safety and Environment: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability in partnership with the Philippine Business for the Environment

5:30 pm – 6:00 pm — Fellowship Night Registration (By Invitation Only)

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm — Fellowship Night Cocktail Reception by Mirant Philippines

FRIDAY, 7 JULY

QUARTERBACKING THE CHANGE: Managing and sustaining the changes in a company's CSR practices by engaging both internal and external stakeholders, specially employees and the youth. The call to action is to make CSR everybody's business – from the CEOs to the employees; from the boardroom to the workplace.

At Every Nation Leadership Institute

7:30 am – 9:00 am — Breakfast Forum with the North Face: Explorations for a Cause (By Invitation Only)

Speakers:
JIMMY THAI, CEO, Primer Group of Companies (The North Face, Philippines)
NES ALDEAN MALLARI, Pauna A Paare International
LALA ESPANOLA, Dalupan Reil Project
ROMEO GARRIDO, The North Face Athlete

9:00 a/n – 11:00 a/n — Recap of Day 3, Overview of Day 3

Plenary

- Harnessing Human Capital: Volunteerism and Employee Engagement in Solving Key Social Issues
- Report on Volunteerism Initiatives of LCF Members by MARY MARGARET M. BARRO, *LCF Executive Director*

Speakers:
DUNCAN POWER, *Executive Director, Charities Aid Foundation (AUSTRALIA)*
JOHN WINKETT, *Deputy Director, Charities Aid Foundation (AUSTRALIA)*

Volunteer Testimonials:
SUSAN T. JO, *Treasury Officer, Petron Corporation and Volunteer in the MBMM Program of the Federation for Youth Enterprise Foundation/Hands Philippines*
JOHN JAMES HERMOSO, *Tabang AMY (Mirant Foundation)*

At Market! Market! Trade Hall A, 3rd floor

12:00 nn – 2:00 pm — Luncheon Plenary (By Invitation Only)

- Nurturing the Corporate Soul by ALEJANDRA P. ROMUALDEZ, President, Philippine Daily Inquirer
- A Model of Taking Collective Action: The Private Sector Response to Southern Leyte by COL. ALEJANDRO T. ESCANO, Vice President, LCF and President, MFI (Manarox Foundation)

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm — Breakout Session 3: Volunteerism and Employee Engagement Marketplace is partnering with PFIZER HANDS ON MANILA and JESUIT VOLUNTEERS PHILIPPINES FOUNDATION

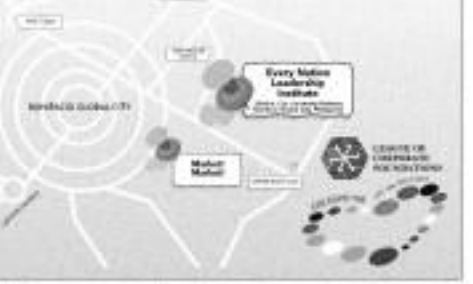
3:00 pm – 6:30 pm — Marketplace of Companies and Volunteer Groups for Harnessing Employee Engagement/Youth Involvement in identified priority areas

- BS 3.1: Engaging Volunteers in Enterprise & Livelihood Programs
- BS 3.2: Engaging Volunteers in Education, CSR Research, and Arts & Culture
- BS 3.3: Engaging Volunteers in Environment Initiatives
- BS 3.4: Engaging Volunteers in Disaster Response, Relief and Rehabilitation

4:30 pm – 6:45 pm — Closing Ceremonies Registration

6:45 pm – 8:00 pm — Closing Ceremonies

- Integration of the CSR Expo 2006 by LYDIA S. ENRILE, *LCF Advisory Council Member and Chairperson, Santiento Foundation*
- Keynote by EDGAR O. CHUA, *Country Chairman, Shell companies in the Philippines*
- Closing of the CSR Expo 2006 by ROBERTO R. CALINGO, *President, LCF and Executive Director, Mirant Philippines Foundation*



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Little (plant) shop around the corner

Makati Garden Club offers an oasis for stressed-out urbanites

By Tina G. Santos

THE 2,500-sq-m property of the club environs as the club headquarters is home to 350,000 kinds of plants.

MAGALLANES IS THE HEART OF Makati City surrounded by skyscrapers, giant shopping malls and condominium high-rises.

The Makati Garden Club (MGC) is a 2,500-sq-m flower and garden oasis at the corner of Bavaria Street, near the intersection of Chino and Arnaiz Avenue.

From the busy thoroughfares, one can that well-tended entrance onto the main gate, to the well-lined footpath that takes them around the area, the garden provides a refreshing respite from the traffic and pollution in the city.

Inside the cozy bungalow, it's easy to forget that you are in the country's financial business district. And even possible to ignore the noise and gas fumes from passing motor vehicles.

Stress reliever

"People come here to relax, relieve stress and appreciate nature," MGC founding president Ms. Isabel Perez-Rubio told the reporter.

She added that many garden enthusiasts drop by to buy ornamental plants.

The MGC was located in 1987 when it was only an 1,874-sq-m lot the group was given permission by Jamiatul Ulcema Mimpar Zobel, the owner of the lot, to turn the property into a headquarters.

"This was a vacant lot, some-times used as a dumpsite by the dogs. That's why Ms. Zobel asked us to put up something here," Perez-Rubio said. She added that it took them about three years to set up the place.

The property used to measure about 3,000 sq. m, but they had to give part of the lot for the expansion of Edsa.

Plant lovers

"We used to count in the go-to-by homes of the different members," said Perez-Rubio. "We thought then that we should put up a clubhouse where we people who want to learn how to appreciate plants."

At first, the group was called the Forbes Park Garden Club, as membership was exclusively for residents of the posh village. After other people from different communities around the city joined the club, the name was changed to the Makati Garden Club.

"I believe that appreciation for plant life is not limited to people in Forbes Park so I opened the door to other members," Perez-Rubio said.

Growing membership

From a small select group in the 1980s, the club's membership has grown to over a hundred.

Conchita "Chingy" Cuisia, 72, who once hosted a flower exhibition, recalled: "During those times, homeowners were part of it. But it gradually became a gourmet club."

She lamented, however, that it is harder to recruit new members these days as most people are busy with work or business.

What was once idle land has now become a landscaped garden that is home to around 350,000 kinds of plants, ranging in size from 150 species. Shaded by trees and trellises are different kinds of herbs, ferns, palms and bromeliads, among others.

Different kinds of trees

The trees include the fruit-bearing star apple, santol, chico, mangga and atis, and flowering ones like the yellow Ipil-Ipil, kamuning, Palawan cherry, champaca and calachuchi. There are also Gulf green cedar, lauaan, eucalyptus, ficus, bougainvillea, areca and kalachuchi.

Adding splashes of color to the garden are various flowering plants that include cattleya, sarandra, sampaguita, rubina, adelfa, chrysanthemum and yellow ixora.

Cuisia said they are trying to develop an "old-fashioned" garden for the benefit of the younger generations, adding that the plant has become a hospital, not only for club members, but for families and anyone who wants to take a break from the hustle and bustle of city life.

Tours for special kids

Sometimes, the added, school-children and even kids with special needs are treated to tours of the place.

"We take them around and introduce to them the different kinds of plants," Cuisia said. "That's why we've been trying to cultivate plants like begonias, ixoras, duchess and gumamelas, and to name a few. Most kids today no longer know how these plants look like."

The garden's lush foliage has made it a favorite nesting place for many birds.

Haven for artists

But they are not the only visitors. Even artists come to the garden for a quiet, unfettered demonstration against fuming everything into concrete. "Sometimes, the members also paint," Cuisia quickly added, adding artists draw inspiration from the lushed-large.

The main entrance to the garden is cordoned by nice beams adorned with flowering plants and vines, including yellow bells and bougainvillea.

As visitors pass through an arc covered with pink bougainvillea flowers, a lined pathway takes them around the garden, and a function room where members hold meetings or lectures.

Just a few steps away is a lotus that greets visitors on their way to the flower shop located at the left side of the garden.

Self-sufficient

Cuisia said the flower shop was set up to make MGC "self-sufficient." Apart from income like from and Makatitan tours, the shop also sells various gardening tools and fertilizers.

Cuisia said some of the plants and flowers sold at the garden come from some of their members' farms.

"We bought our try to propagate plants here at the garden, there are some kinds, like the mums, that only grow in places with a cool climate like Tagaytay City," she added.

A few minutes away from the flower shop is a golden even used for storage which members want to convert to a painting or exhibit area.

"The place not only offers a lot of peace and quiet amid the city noise, but a breath of fresh air amid the smog as well," said Luz Gabor, 50, a resident of nearby Bel-Air Village.

Club officers and members, however, said that the club is more than just flowers and plants.

"This is also a center for learning everything about gardening, orchid and bonsai culture and flower arrangements, among others," Cuisia said.

Another active member of the club, Regina Tuazon, who attends the environmentalist group Mother Foundation, said they often invite speakers who talk about various topics concerning plants and other related matters and crafts.

Other 'down'

The MGC also supplies plants for the gardening projects of other organizations like the Women Investment's urban forests at the grounds of the Cultural Center of the Philippines complex in Roxas City and the Hospicio de San Jose in Manila.

Apart from plant and flower sales, the club has also sustained itself through various activities, the most well-known of which is the annual Festival of Trees (FOT), an auction of beautiful Christmas trees that had been decorated by MGC members and previous stewards donated by prominent Filipino artists and patrons.

Proceeds from the FOT event are used for various art projects and environmental programs, Cuisia said, adding that the club also relies on annual membership dues ($1,000), bazaars, donations and other fund-raising activities.

The gardens open to the public everyday except on Sundays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

A seminar for property owners, buyers, brokers & developers
TAXATION OF REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS with REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS
July 3, 7:30 a.m. 2nd Flr. Rizal's Rest. Alameda 2 Ayala Cent. Mkti
CURBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

CONCHITA Cuisia, former club president, says the garden is for kids who are longer brave what snow plants look like.

US officials deport ex-cop wanted for murder in RP

By Margaux C. Ortiz

[illegible] CHIEFS HAVE TRIALS
caught-squabbles.

A former Caloocan City police officer who fled to the United States after allegedly killing a man five years ago was deported to the Philippines, after violating immigration laws abroad.

National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Interpol Division chief Clint de Castro Jr. said Segundo Jennings would finally be tried for separate cases of homicide and illegal possession of firearms pending at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court after the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) deported him last June 27.

De Castro said they had earlier received a letter from the Office of Migrant Workers at the Department of Foreign Affairs asking the NBI to check if Jennings had a criminal record. The OMW made the query after it received information about his deportation.

Two arrest warrants

Based on a check of its records, the NBI found out that branches 79 and 97 of the Quezon City RTC had issued two arrest warrants for the suspect for his supposed involvement in the killing of Salomon Donaco on May 30, 1995 in Edsa.

Silvestre Ignacio showed that Jennings, who was tagged as the mastermind in the killing, had used a .45 caliber pistol that was registered in the name of a certain Alejandro Perez.

De Castro said the suspect did not appear during investigation and the subsequent trial.

Fugitive from justice

The former policeman alleged to flew to the US to avoid prosecution, De Castro said.

However, he was arrested by Seattle authorities last May 16 for violating US immigration laws.

Jennings, who was escorted by ICE officers, arrived in Manila last June 29 and was immediately turned over to the NBI Interpol.

RESPITE FROM THE HEAT
Two girls frolic in Manila Bay, eager to catch waves just before the rains arrive in the afternoon. KIM KOMENICH

Marikina motorists urged to use biofuel

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

DRIVING IN MARIKINA? BETTER IF YOU use using alternative fuel.

The City Council has passed a resolution "strongly encouraging" motorists in Marikina to use biofuel like coco diesel and ethanol.

According to the resolution, the use of environment-friendly motor fuel additives would minimize the emission of harmful pollutants and help keep the air clean.

Complainer with the resolution, however, was not mandatory as city officials explained that most vehicles plying the city streets, including those owned by the local government, had not yet been calibrated to use biofuel.

In addition, biofuel may be cleaner and safer for the environment but available products were still more expensive than commercial diesel or gasoline, they said.

Marikina City Mayor Marides Fernando is scheduled to sign the resolution this morning. The city government will also hold a exhibit on alternative fuel in the City Hall lobby.

Joining the exhibit are car manufacturing companies which will be displaying "environment friendly" car models, manufacturers of emission-reducing gadgets and suppliers of alternative fuel like the Philippine Coconut Authority.

Marikina City Science High School graduate Raymund Joseph Ramirez, who went to an international science fair, will also display his prize-winning project on extracting biofuel from jatropa fuel.

METROBRIEFS

Holiday today in Pasig

THANKSGIVING business in the Pasig City Hall today? There will be no one to attend to you. In commemoration the 450th foundation anniversary of Pasig City, Malacañang has declared July 3 a special nonworking holiday in the city. "It is befitting and proper that the people of the City of Pasig be given the opportunity to celebrate the occasion in the appropriate commemorative," Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said. Aside from local government offices, schools and most commercial establishments in the city will also be closed today. Pasig City's foundation day anniversary actually falls on July 21 but because yesterday was a Sunday, Malacañang just decided to move the holiday to the next working day.

Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

What's that weed?

GUESS what was growing in their backyard? Two women in Muntinlupa City were picked up for questioning on Saturday by the police after a marijuana plant was found in their backyard in Barangay 30, and Nida Dimas, 32, were brought to the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Muntinlupa police for investigation. Ronald Ibrolla of the Tunasan Barangay Police told the reporters Ibrolla said they went to Arriaga's house at 118 Rumaby Street in Barangay Tunasan after they received a tip that the two women had a marijuana plant in their backyard. They took photos of the plant which, according to SPO2 Renjie Martinez of the Muntinlupa police DEU, was four feet high. The women, who denied that they owned or planted marijuana in their backyard, were released after nearly three hours of questioning by the police, said Martinez. "We can't detain them because anyone could have planted it and then backyard is an open area where anyone eggplants and others do not planted," he explained.

Jocelyn R. Uy

DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW THAT FORMER PRESIDENT'S Gregorio Aguinaldo, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada did not live in Malacañang Palace during their term?

Aguinaldo and Ramos chose to live at the nearby Aguinaldo Guest House, while Estrada stayed at the Presidential Guest House very few Presidents of country have lived in Malacañang Palace. Former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos at the time her husband Ferdinand Marcos was the President.

The three former Presidents and the last Spanish Governor-General, Fermin Jaudenes, were the only heads of the country who did not live at the Palace since it became the official residence of Spanish governors-general in 1863.

Cyrill C. Almendrala, PDI Research

Tensions in East Timor ease

DILI—EAST TIMOR ON SUNDAY seemed set to ease prime ministerial tensions, as the head of Australian peacekeepers welcomed a new era of calm after weeks of violent upheaval.

A week of peaceful protests in the capital Dili appeared to have eased tensions, and there was further optimism as behind-the-scenes talks were set back to solve a premier within the next few days, politicians and officials said.

Leaders of the Fretilin party of ex-premier Mari Alkatiri are due to meet President Xanana Gusmao this week over the appointment of a new government to lead the tiny nation out of its worst crisis since independence in 2002.

Fighting between rival factions of the security forces and gang warfare raged for weeks, leaving at least 21 people dead and forcing some 150,000 to flee their homes in a nation of less than one million people.

Fears of fresh violence last week were allayed when up to 6,000 Alkatiri supporters left Dili after a major show of strength as the streets which passed off without any major strikes.

"We have got a watershed in the situation here as a result of the successful conduct of two major democratic elections," Australia's Brigadier Mick Slater told reporters Sunday.

"I think we have had a successful week as far as stable operations have gone in Dili."

More than 2,200 peacekeepers, the majority from Australia but also from New Zealand, Portugal and Malaysia, arrived in the tiny nation in May as violence worsened in the country.

The unrest was sparked by Alkatiri's decision to sack 600 soldiers, nearly half of East Timor's tiny army, in March for desertion after they walked out claiming discrimination.

Alkatiri quit Monday after being widely blamed for the disturbances and new allegations he was involved in a plot to arm a militia linked to mixed his political rivals.

One of the favorites to succeed Alkatiri, Jose Ramos-Horta, an ex-president and the 1996 Nobel peace prize winner, will run the government until a new leader is appointed by the president who's overall league in the coming week. AFP

AMAZON CARNIVAL
A reveller wearing indigenous costume dances in unison during the Parintins jungle carnival deep in the heart of the Amazon forest July 1. Two rival teams named after bears competed in a spectacle recounting Indian tales, local history and the region's cattle ranching roots. REUTERS

THE SPACE shuttle Discovery sits on launchpad July 1, at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. NASA scrubbed the launch of Discovery due to unfavorable weather conditions. AFP

Clouds delay shuttle launch at least 1 day

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.—NASA postponed the launch of space shuttle Discovery until Sunday at the earliest due to possible lightning and thunderstorms near the Florida launchpad on Saturday.

"It's not a good day to launch the shuttle so we're going to try again tomorrow," spokesman Mike Limbach said, with the countdown clock stopped at nine minutes.

Weather was a persistent worry leading up to Saturday's scheduled launch, with storm clouds hovering over Kennedy Space Center. The forecast for Sunday is no better, with a 60 percent chance that storms could force a delay of 48 hours minimum.

Sunday's preferred launch time is 5:38 p.m. (5:38 a.m. Monday in Manila).

This is only the second shuttle mission since the fatal Columbia accident in 2003, and is a critical testing point for NASA.

If Discovery is critically damaged in launch or afterward, and astronauts cannot fix the problem in orbit, the seven crew members would stay on the Space Station and wait for rescue, but NASA chief Mike Griffin has said it could be the end of the shuttle program.

That would leave the $100 billion International Space Station unemployed and would also mean the United States has no way to carry humans to space.

Griffin decided to launch the shuttle over the objections of the US space agency's head of safety and to top engineer, who warned the mission is delayed a debris strike on the fuel tank and to remove falling foam.

The space shuttle began flying in 1981 and is scheduled for retirement in 2010 as NASA develops a new manned spaceship that can travel to the moon and beyond.

The shuttle is the only spacecraft able to lift the heavy components needed to finish the space station.

NASA has spent $1.1 billion on repairs and safety upgrades to the double fleet since Columbia disintegrated over Texas in February 2003, killing all seven crew. Reuters

Japanese media cool on Koizumi-Bush ties

TOKYO—JAPAN SHOULD SEEK A more cordial relationship with the United States rather than one based on personal bonding, the country's media said after Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's trip to Washington.

Koizumi displayed his media savvy by crooning Elvis Presley hits during a visit to Graceland with US President George W. Bush, with whom he has lodged a close friendship over his five years in office.

But the bizarrely chumless newspaper said Japan's diplomacy should not be so dependent on the personal relationship between the two.

"It was disappointing that Koizumi failed to make full use of his friendly Japan-US relationship on the road international scene," the newspaper said, bemoaning Japan's failure" to take a premium seat on the UN Security Council.

Tokyo failed to get a formal endorsement of support from Washington for its bid as elusive a permanent seat on the Council, which was blocked by China. AFP

Dutch to hold polls in November

AMSTERDAM—THE NETHERlands will hold national elections in November after the collapse of Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende's center-right coalition government over immigration policy, officials said on Saturday.

Head of state Queen Beatrix had appointed former Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers to advise on the formation of a caretaker government and to set the date to November for the elections, the General Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

Opinion polls show the opposition Labor Party would win the elections but fall far short of an outright majority, leaving the political leaning of a future government unclear.

Balkenende's government is the third to collapse since 2002.

The polls cast doubt on whether Labor could build a majority coalition of left-wing parties, although voters backed leftist parties in local elections three months ago, rejecting anti-immigration populists and far-ruling center-right parties.

Political analysts said the government's collapse could delay planned corporate tax cuts that could hit companies that earn their bulk of their income domestically, although that simplification and extensive operations would dent lots of an impact.

Balkenende tendered his government's resignation on Friday after the small CU-SGP party quit the administration over the handling of a botched-up legislator's citizenship.

The caretaker government is widely expected to be a minority coalition of Balkenende's Christian Democrats (CDA) and VVD Liberals.

"Advisers will investigate the possibility of a cabinet formed by CDA and VVD that will have to realize early elections on a date in November to be set under the direction of Lubbers," said the statement.

The collapse of the government occurred amid public concern over the immigration and security policies which helped Balkenende win power in 2002. Reuters

The lonely American just got a bit lonelier

FOR AS LONG AS RESIDENTS have gathered in groups, it seems, some people have been left on the outside looking in. In postwar America in particular, the idea that loneliness pervades a portion of society has been a near-constant. Only the descriptions have changed. The "lonely crowd" alienation of the 1950s; the "me generation" angst of the '70s and '80s; the "bowling alone" collapse of social connections of the '90s.

There is a new installment in the annals of loneliness. Americans are not only lacking in bowling partners, now they're lacking in people to tell their deepest, darkest secrets. They've hunkered down even more, their inner circle often consisting small it includes only family, only a spouse or, of course, no one.

A recent study by sociologists at Duke and the University of Arizona found that, on average, most adults only have two people they can talk to about the most important subjects in their lives — serious health problems, for example. The study found that well over the three children should they die. And about one-quarter have no close confidantes at all.

"The kinds of connections are eroded on the kinds of people you said you could rely on for real concrete help when you need it," said Dr. Lynn Smith-Lovin, co-author of the study. NYT

Kuwait Cabinet quits after debacle

KUWAIT CITY — THE KUWAITI Cabinet resigned Saturday after the opposition secured a censure motion against it in a historic, one-of-a-kind vote for the first time.

The resignation, which is required by law in the oil-rich Gulf country after an election, followed a final heated meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Sa'ad Mohammad al-Abdullah al-Sabah.

The next Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah is expected to begin consultations Sunday on the formation of a new Cabinet, which must be completed within two weeks.

The head of state can either ask the outgoing premier to form a new government or appoint a new prime minister.

However, parliament say democracy is not limited to a set of a party system and political parties are not recognized although several political groupings operate freely in de facto parties.

The Islamic opposition, a loose alliance of lobbyists, Shiite and nationalists, won 23 seats in the 50-member parliament, removing the absolute majority required to push through legislation. AFP

THE CANADIAN Forces Snowbirds fly past the Peace Tower during Canada Day celebrations on Parliament Hill in Ottawa Feb. 1. Canadians celebrated their country's 139th birthday. REUTERS

Canada to upgrade its military might

TORONTO — PRIME MINISTER Stephen Harper's Conservative government has announced its most aggressive upgrade of Canadian military equipment in decades, laying out new expenditures of $15.5 billion to improve transportation capacities.

The new spending was billed Harper's campaign promise from January's election and did not come as a big surprise. But it represented the biggest break in policy for the new and more U.S.-friendly Conservative government from 13 years of Liberal previous prime ministers. The Liberals reduced military spending to a low of $10.4 billion in 1998, one of the lowest per capita among industrialized countries.

But as Canada takes part in more global and combat missions and exercises to military missions in Afghanistan, where it is involved in its biggest combat operation since the Korean war, the country has made a case that the military needs more mobility and muscle.

The spending plan, detailed in a series of four announcements last week, sets aside money for new helicopters, planes, warships and ships that will give the armed forces a level of independence not seen in years after budget cuts in the 1990s. Added to the announcements last September for much of the military's weaponry, the statement. Most critics today are asking equipment that should have been replaced a decade ago, some military analysts said.

In recent years, the Canadian military has often been limited to role no foreign and commercial equipment to transport in troops to global conflicts and emergencies. Critics often point to the January 2004 tsunami that struck Southeast Asia, when it took 12 days for the Canadian military relief team to secure transportation to the region.

"With a strategic airlift capacity of only four, we will no longer have to borrow from our allies in non-time commercial aircraft, [or] options that were still in storage around," Defense Minister Gordon O'Connor told reporters on Thursday.

The new equipment includes 17 heavy-lift helicopters, 17 planes to transport troops and four expeditionary ships, planes that are set to begin arriving in the next two years. There are also plans to port ships will be ready by planning in 2012. The four-equipment acquisitions will be able to transport troops, and heavy equipment way, where in the world, something Canada's military has not been capable of in recent years, O'Connor said.

Much of the $15.5 billion will be spent on the new vehicles in the next five years, though the plan does include more than $6 billion for maintenance over the next 20 years. NYT

Hong Kong pro-freedom march draws over 20,000

HONG KONG — MORE THAN 20,000 Hong Kong residents took to the streets Saturday to demand full democracy for the former British colony on the ninth anniversary of its handover to China.

Carrying banners that read "Justice, Equality, Democracy, Hope," the protesters flooded out of the gates of Victoria Park in the city center, bound for downtown government offices some 3 kilometers away.

To beating drums, they chanted "We Want Universal Suffrage" and waved colorful placards that read "When will we have a timetable for universal suffrage?" Protesters representing teachers and other professions as well as antiglobalists, animal rights and lesbian prostitutes groups were also at the rally.

Police estimated that the turnout was about 20,000, while organizers said 58,000 marched, one more than last year's 50,000 people.

Amid feeling rife for democracy sites years after the 1997 handover, activists hoped the appearance of retired deputy leader secretary Anson Chan would encourage their more reasonable campaign for universal suffrage. AFP

China opens rail link to remote Tibet

BEIJING — THE WORLD'S highest railway opened the world's highest railway, a 710-mile line that crosses the remote Tibetan Plateau and will trigger a flood of tourists and new residents to the once secluded Buddhist holy city of Lhasa.

The railway, inaugurated on Saturday by President Hu Jintao and top Communist Party officials, is a defiant opening run, to-to-dismissed by several Han nationalists as symbolic persecution and reaches more than 16,000 feet above sea level.

Many officials have hailed the $4.1 billion project, which was scheduled to the making, as a milestone in the country's drive to open its western region and bring an infusion of people and prosperity to its more Tibet.

But Tibetan and foreign critics say that the railway will bring Han Chinese, China's dominant ethnic group, to the exposure of Tibetan culture. AFP

US threatens to cut aid to Nepal over rebel arms

KHUMALTAR, NEPAL — THE United States has warned it will cut off millions of dollars in annual aid to Nepal if communist rebels join the country's proposed interim government without first giving up their weapons.

"If the Maoists continue to use violence after they enter the government, our law says that we can't supply assistance to those who support extremist groups. We have to consider them a combat terrorist group until they give up arms," said US Ambassador to Nepal James F Moriarty.

Moriarty's remarks came after he met with Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala on Saturday before leaving for Washington.

The US provides Nepal with $45 million a year in development, education and health aid.

In the past, the US has given Nepal's government millions of dollars of military aid to fight the Maoist rebels, but suspended it after King Gyanendra seized absolute power last year.

The communists' leader criticised Moriarty's stance.

"I am not surprised with the comments by the ambassador to Nepal, because he does not want peace in Nepal," said Prachanda, who goes by a single name.

The seven-way unhappy and seven-party alliance of political movement, and is trying to dismantle the autocratic rule is about to develop among the political parties."

The rebels, who have waged a decade-long war to seize control of the Himalayan nation, have announced that they're joining to interim government to be formed along with main political parties.

The rebels had suspended violence to pressure seven parties and a general strike organised by an alliance of seven major political parties in April that forced King Gyanendra to relinquish the absolute power he'd seized in early 2005. AP

Liechtenstein aims to clean up image as shady financial haven

VADUZ, LIECHTENSTEIN — THE sleeping edge architecture of a string of brand-new banks might seem incongruous in a village topped off with a medieval castle and tiles.

But Liechtenstein — with 35,000 residents in an area a little over double the size of Manhattan — is no ordinary corner of Europe.

The nation sandwiched between Austria and Switzerland gained [illegible] after it lost a banking and financial services secrecy, a place where illegal [illegible] assets could be safely shelter away and no one would ask questions.

How the regulations have changed — and it's been the rest of the world took notice of the shift. The country is making, one of the ruling Prince Alois von and to Liechtenstein.

"I think it was rightly a major problem that the outside world found with Liechtenstein," said Alois, who has executive powers — including the right to dissolve governments, veto laws and rule the drinking vote on the appointment of new judges.

But now Liechtenstein has strong regulations to effectively fight money laundering and terrorism funding, they say.

Europe's fourth-smallest sovereign state got rich on its returns as an offshore tax haven, with strict rules on banking secrecy. Almost a third of its gross domestic product — 2.2 billion Swiss francs (US$1.8 billion; euro 1.71 billion) comes from financial services, including banking.

But since the end of the 20th century the rest of the world was getting annoyed with its role in helping criminals and, potentially, terrorists financing.

In 2000, both the G-8 group of leading industrialized nations and the 29-nation Financial Action Task Force put Liechtenstein on their blacklist of nations deemed uncooperative in fighting money laundering. The principality scrambled to write its laws, and a year later was relieved to be removed from the blacklists.

Almost simultaneously, the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development called on Liechtenstein to sign an agreement to exchange information on tax matters.

PRINCE Alois

Liechtenstein is on a separate blacklist of "uncooperative tax havens."

"The main reasons countries were angry was we had very bad implementation," says Alois, appearing relaxed in one of his country's many banks. "Our notion of giving legal aid via other countries was very poor."

Bring on the blacklists spurred the Liechtenstein authorities into action. Since then, new laws have been passed to tighten regulations, more judges and lawyers have been brought in to supervise and regulate the financial institutions and a financial intelligence unit set up to search for wrongdoers. In 2004, a new taxation law removed from the money-laundering list.

"After 2001, the complete legal framework changed," says Michael Lauber, chief executive of the Liechtenstein Bankers Association.

Liechtenstein is still on the tax-haven blacklist, but is lobbying to have its name removed. "He is forced on old info," Lauber says.

Gerry Ruetschi, a tax haven specialist with the OECD, said Liechtenstein remains on the list of uncooperative tax havens because "because, unlike 30 other jurisdictions, it has not made a commitment to the OECD to improve transparency and to establish effective exchange of information for tax purposes with OECD countries."

As for tightening the laws against tax evasion is not a crime in Liechtenstein. The country does not provide legal assistance to other countries investigating illegal tax evasion and also wants to maintain as much of its banking secrecy as possible.

UNDATED pictures of Liechtenstein's Prince Castle in Vaduz that is undergoing complete restoration. Ruling Prince Alois has said no Liechtenstein can see almost his entire residence the castle.

Osama accuses Iraq Shiites of Sunni genocide

ANGUISH Wilyne, left, father of Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas J. Wilyne helps bishop Assunta Wilyne, center, as the widow of Lance Corporal Wilyne and their son's casket during a burial ceremony at Long Island June 28. Wilyne, 21, of Brooklyn, died June 21 after being hit by sniper fire while on patrol in Ramadi, Iraq. AFP

PARIS—AL-QAEDA LEADER Osama bin Laden accused Iraqi Shiites of waging "genocide" against Sunnis and ordered all resistance, according to a new audiotape posted on the Internet.

The message, the second in as many days purportedly from the Western world's most wanted man, came as yet another bomber struck on bombing-shook Baghdad, killing 66 people in one of the worst attacks this year.

A White House official said the message, if authenticated by US intelligence services, reflected Al Qaeda's "dark vision" and shows that bin Laden had his supporters "often nothing beyond further fighting, conflict and misery."

The speaker in the audio message, posted on Saturday also blamed against deploying international forces to broker hostilities and expressed looking for Islamist hero-fathers.

The voice said Iraqi Sunnis once dominant under the ousted regime of Saddam Hussein, were being subjected to "a campaign of genocide at the hands of the troops of grudge and retaliatory," a television to whites.

The speaker warned that Iraqi Shiites could therefore expect retribution.

"It is not possible that many of the people of the south (who are predominantly Shiites) join America and its allies in attacking (the Sunni bastions of) Tallujah, Ramadi, Baquba, Mosul, Samarra, Al-Qaim and other cities and villages and (expect) their reprisals to be spared a reaction and harm," he said.

The recording emerged on the same day that a group calling itself "the Supporters of the Sunnah Army" claimed a devastating Baghdad car bombing that killed at least 66 people in a Shiite neighborhood, saying it was in retaliation for Shiite attacks on Sunnis.

The voice on the tape also accused the government of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, a Shiite, of being "treacherous and apostate."

"The first step required in bringing stability to Iraq is to drive out the crusader armies by force, then to punish the leaders of (Shiite) parties" who "lied to the people by selling them their participation in the political process is the way to drive out the occupiers," he added.

The speaker attacked Iraq's feared vice president Tareq al-Hashemi, lumping him with Shiite leaders allegedly deserving the Iraqi people.

The voice on the tape also endorsed the choice of Abu Hamza al-Muhajer as head of al-Qaida's Iraq branch as successor to Abu Hamdi al-Zarqawi, who was killed in a US air strike June 7.

"I pray that Almighty that he will be the best successor to the martyr predecessor ... and I encourage mujahedeen to focus the fight on the Americans and those who support them," the message added.

The new statement was posted after the US authentication a message by the fugitive al-Qaida leader welcomed on Friday in which he said that Jihad, or holy war, would go on in Iraq despite Zarqawi's killing.

The speaker went on to slam Yemen President Ali Abdullah Saleh as an "American agent" and urged Somalis to resist US incursions.

"I warn against the links of the infidels ... such as Ali Abdullah Saleh's co-fathers to you and your adversaries to conduct a dialogue in Sanaa," the speaker said. "He is an obedient American agent."

The speaker vowed that his supporters would fight any US or international forces sent to Somalia and reserved the right to punish any countries that provided such forces on their own soil "and anywhere possible."

He appealed to Somalia's Islamic court forces who took the capital Mogadishu from a US-backed warlord alliance on June 5 and are now led by a cleric accused by Washington of having ties to al-Qaida. AFP

Bird flu tends to kill youth, as shown by 1918 epidemic–WHO

AVIAN FLU TENDS TO KILL younger people, much as the 1918 Spanish flu epidemic did, the World Health Organization said. Friday in a released on analysis of more than 200 cases.

Fearful it say the disease surged in the victim for the last three years, the report said, so a rise in fatal cases can be expected into the years even if the virus does not mutate into a form more easily transmitted.

Moreover, the report warned, the risk of the virus becoming more transmissible remains high "because of the widespread distribution of the (H5N1 virus in poultry and the continued exposure of humans."

The median age of victims with confirmed cases was 26 years, the report said. The highest death rate—71 percent—was among patients aged 10 to 24, while the overall fatality rate was 55 percent.

A high death rate among young adults echoes the pattern found in the 1918-1919 epidemic, said Dr Michael T. Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota. Scientists warned that year's H1N1 virus was also an avian flu that mutated until it spread easily among humans, although it was fatal to only about 2 percent of those who caught it. That was enough to kill between 40 million and 100 million people worldwide.

When the second wave of the Spanish flu struck Boston in the fall of 1918, Osterholm said, the flu death rate among people ages 10 to 30, which had been about 30 per 100,000 people in previous years, soared to 3,700 per 100,000.

The unusual flu, by contrast, tends to kill the very young and the very old, often from secondary bacterial pneumonia.

In the Asian and Middle Eastern countries where the disease is most pervasive, people of all ages are exposed to the virus, but 90 percent of the cases have been in people under 40, so something in young adult's immune make them more susceptible.

Robinson suggests that many young people in 10 it and quite a few in the outbreak are killed by a "cytokine storm"—the body's own immune reaction, which floods the lungs with fluid. Young adults generally have strong immune systems.

People over 50 have the lowest death rate, but it is still 33 percent, which is a huge impact compared with seasonal flu. AFP

NOVICES Thai Buddhist bill who novices build sand towers as they pray at a temple during an ordination ceremony in Bangkok, July 2. The six-hundred novices will enter the monkhood for three months to study Buddhist teaching during the Buddhist lent and celebrate the 60th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. AFP

The WORLD

Lira Lorenzo B. Suazo

Israel bombs Palestinian PM's office

Says it will use all means to have soldier released

GAZA CITY—MY ISRAELI AIR RAID struck the Gaza office of Palestinian prime minister Ismail Haniya early Sunday, ratcheting up the pressure to free a captured Israeli soldier even as mediation talks continued.

Haniya, who was not present at the time of the raid, swiftly condemned the attack, which set fire to the office in a dramatic warning to the Hamas government following multiple Israeli threats against their leadership.

"It's an attack against a Palestinian symbol. We tell the international community and the Arab League to take its responsibilities towards our people and intervene" to end what he called Israel's "insane policy" he said.

Witnesses said at least one missile struck Haniya's office shortly before 2:00 a.m., sparking a blaze over the ten-story building dreaded by a team of Palestinian firefighters.

A second near-simultaneous air strike to the southern Gaza strip town of Jabaliya killed a member of the armed wing of Haniya's Hamas movement and wounded another, marking a fifth straight night of Israeli air raids on Gaza.

Israel has repeatedly threatened to target Haniya following the capture on June 25 of an Israeli soldier by three Palestinian militant groups, including the armed wing of the prime minister's Islamist Hamas movement.

The Israeli military confirmed it carried out an air strike and Haniya's office and another two targeting Hamas infrastructure in Gaza, saying the Israel Defense Forces would use "all means" to secure the soldier's release.

"There was an aerial attack on the office of Ismail Haniya, prime minister. The IDF holds the Palestinian authority and the Hamas government responsible for the events as such are the soldier and his fate," a spokesperson told reporters.

"The IDF will continue to employ all means at its disposal against Palestinian terrorist infrastructure in the Gaza Strip to effect the repatriation of Corporal Gilad Shalit," she added.

The Israeli military confirmed another two air strikes against Hamas outposts in the Gaza refugee camp of Jabaliya where "several terrorists were present at the time planning terrorist attacks against Israel." A Palestinian security official said one of the attacks targeted a school run by the Islamist movement, which operates a powerful social welfare wing in the impoverished Gaza Strip. The Israeli military denied a school was hit.

A senior official from Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas' office had warned Saturday that Haniya's life would be on the line if a solution was not reached soon allowing the release of the 19-year-old Israeli corporal, Gilad Shalit.

"His life is at risk if the Palestinian groups do not free the Israeli soldier," a high-ranking official said on condition of anonymity. —AFP

AN ISRAELI soldier atop his tank looks through the scope of his rifle at the Gaza Strip July 1. —AP

PALESTINIAN officials inspect the damage to the office of Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya after it was hit in an Israeli missile strike July 2. Haniya was not in his office at the time. —AP

Israel squeezes ordinary Gaza citizens, who turn to Hamas

By Ian Fisher

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP—OMAR Sarsuq's wife had left their 11-day-old supermarket here only days before. Then the power is out—which is often since the Israeli military bombed out nearly half of Gaza's power supply on Wednesday—that ramseca long climb up the stairs.

"It's a prison but there are no guards," said Omar Sarsuq, 40, waiting for the power to return as Israeli artillery shells thudded nearby on Friday. "You are obliged to stay in your house."

The electricity issues are only an aberration, but also less water, refrigeration and air conditioning in cash-strapped Gaza. The Israeli military campaign in Gaza—aimed at forcing the release of a captured Israeli soldier—has come with other problems. The closed borders have locked out food, which has nearly run dry, and fuel. The main bottom on cell-phone and Internet service, making a fifth straight night of Israeli air raids on Gaza.

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"His life is at risk if the Palestinian groups do not free the Israeli soldier," a high-ranking official said on condition of anonymity. —AFP

it might have weeks' other circumstances. Gaza has already been squeezed financially—and civil servants like Asrsuq are paid for four months—since Hamas took power in January elections and the West cut off financial aid.

"They are bending for the abyss unless they get electricity and fuel restored," Jan Egeland, the UN emergency coordinator, said. AFP

Do You Have Dyspepsia?

Parang tandod ang tiyan. May lulbag. Masakit ang sikmura. If you frequently experience these symptoms, you may have a common stomach condition known as Dyspepsia.

What is Dyspepsia?

Dyspepsia is a recurring discomfort in the chest and stomach regions. Aside from **bloating, gas** and **stomach pains**, other symptoms include **heavy stomach, fullness** and **nausea.**

Dyspepsia symptoms usually appear when stomach's movement slows down and food does not empty from the stomach. These symptoms often follow meals, but can occur anytime.

Treatment

Frequent remedies taken for Dyspepsia-like symptoms are drinks like tea, soft drinks or antacids. These remedies may relieve some, but not all of the symptoms of Dyspepsia.

A class of medication called Prokinetics can relieve Dyspepsia symptoms by restoring motility or normal stomach movement. Prokinetic drugs are what most doctors prescribe for Dyspepsia. The most prescribed Prokinetic drug is Domperidone, available in 10mg tablet form.

See Your Doctor

If symptoms persist, it is best to see your doctor. A Philippine Society of Gastroenterology (PSG) doctor will recommend the right treatment for Dyspepsia.

By: Dr. Ramon E. Carpio
Chairman, Council on Dyspepsia
Philippine Society of Gastroenterology

Sa Dyspepsia,

TRIBUTE TO SHEHERAZADE

Sand sculptors carve a creation during the Sand Sculptures Festival in Blankenberge in northern Belgium July 1. A team of forty carvers from around the world spent five weeks building a giant sculpture representing the world of Sheherazade and the giant book of Thousand and One Nights. REUTERS

No breakthrough in WTO talks

GENEVA—WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) states failed yet again on Saturday to break a deadlock in global free-trade negotiations but insisted the "round" was not dead.

Pronouncing the trade round in crisis, WTO chief Pascal Lamy said a deal could still be struck in the coming weeks before negotiators finally run out of time.

Major trade powers have agreed a new preliminary text for Lamy in the increasingly desperate search for compromise in the over 5-year-old trade round, after two days of talks failed to heal a split over farm and industrial goods.

"We have clearly reached something of an impasse here. But does that mean the round is dead? No. My last-ditch intervention of giving up hope," US Trade Representative Susan Schwab told a news conference.

Despite warnings by Lamy that the future of the round hung by a thread, top trading powers were unable to agree on how far rich nations should slash farm subsidies and tariffs and developing countries open their manufacturing markets.

"There has been no progress, therefore we are in a crisis," Lamy said. "But the mere fact that it remains deadly" Pilduna a deal this weekend, Lamy had said the WTO could run out of time to finish the Doha round, which also covers complex issues such as services, by the end of the year, which is the absolute run-off.

Calling the meeting neither a "success nor a disaster," European Union trade chief Peter Mandelson said earlier that a breakthrough must come before the end of July.

Heads of government of the so-called G6—Australia, Brazil, India, Japan, the EU and the United States...which has been taking the lead in negotiations, could soon meet, possibly at the G8 summit later this month in St. Petersburg.

The talks stalled last on Friday at the end of the first of an originally-scheduled three days of negotiations between ministers from some 149 WTO states after lead hopeful to settle the core issues that are delaying progress on the overall round.

Developing countries said they would not let rich nations negotiate away the primary purpose of the Doha round—to give economic opportunities to millions living in poverty.

"We are not here to lend backwards to accommodate more market access for industrialized nations. We are not going to allow ourselves to be cheated for any values," said Zambian Trade Minister Dipak Patel.

The talks pit the European Union and the United States against each other and against leading developing nations.

Despite the gridlock, some diplomats talked of a "managed crisis." Few saw the real danger seeing as the economics of talk. Reuters

WHAT'S INSIDE
Tearful Agassi, other US stars tumble out /A38

SPORTS

Editor Teddyboy S. Molondres

Giants shuffle Aces, reach finals

By Jun Navarro

PUREFOODS TOOK THE HARDER ROUTE BUT finished off Alaska with the same flair it displayed years ago to reach the finals of the Gran Matador Brandy PBA Philippine Cup last night.

Sea Castillo's drive off Tony Dela Cruz with 13.4 seconds left allowed the Giants to preserve their game-long brilliance with a thrilling 90-89 win over the Aces in their Game 7 showdown at the Cuneta Astrodome.

"When we're down 1-3, almost everybody had written us off," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio after beating Alaska's Tim Cone in a best-of-seven series rarity in a row. "But we just kept the faith and stayed together as a team."

As is the 2002 Governors Cup, the Giants overcame a 0-2 deficit and captured the title over Alaska in the seventh and last game.

The only difference this time was Gregorio and his troops needed to sweep the last three games of the series after Game 4.

And they did.

"It was a great display of character. This team played with so much energy, and now that we're in the finals, we want to go all the way," said Gregorio after booking a return ticket to the championship for the second straight conference.

Gregorio and the Giants lost last conference's Finals Cup to Red Bull.

Bobby Ramirezada staked to the final ball by serving 15 of his 25 points on top of 13 boards but he committed a costly turnover late in the rally that had the Aces storming back from 19 points down.

Trapped in a corner, Raymond de Castro can't pass landed on the lap of Jeffrey Cariaso and the Aces moved within 85-87, with 31 ticks left, on a Mike Cortes drive.

But Castillo managed to shrug off Dela Cruz in the next possession, scoring on a left-handed hang shot that took the fight out of the Aces.

"It's nice to be surrounded by composed and brilliant coaches," said Gregorio, referring to assistant coaches Joy Bascal and Boysie Magsanoc.

Magsanoc designed a play that led to a press break that sealed the win for the Giants.

Castillo finished with 16 points, Roger Yap added 14 while James Yap, who went 5for of 16 from the field, wound up with 12 for the Giants, who became the fourth team to league history to win a best-of-seven series after losing the first two games.

Overall, the Giants are in their 19th title since 1988.

PUREFOODS' Richard Yee (9) tries to wiggle out of an Alaska double team set up by Mike Cortes and Sonny Thoss in yesterday's game.

PREVIOUS RESULTS

No knockout? Don't blame Manny Pacquiao

NICK GIONGCO OF THE BULLETIN ES-

Bare Eyes

Ronah Tirnidad

Knights ride out for 2nd win vs Stags

Coseteng nails Touring Car sweep

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Julia Vargas Avenue

* See Flyers for more details

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1024 Series of 2006

Amonsot, 3 other locals punish Mexican rivals

By Sabrel L. Lagumbay
Gold Boxer

MANNY Pacquiao, pressing his body attack [illegible] Oscar Larios' midsection in the fifth round. (www.ap.com)

My wife is seeing a younger man...Me!

A. PINEDA MEDICAL CLINICS

what's your ism?

ISM n. the essence of a person; a personal belief and conviction; a distinct quality in everyone

MOTOLITE
MAS PANGMATAGALAN

MABUHAY ANG PILIPINO!
MANNY "PACMAN" PACQUIAO
2006 WBC INTERNATIONAL SUPERFEATHERWEIGHT CHAMPION

Malayo ang maraming kahit di mo Tubigan!
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Kaagapay sa Paglakbay
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Zidane produces a masterpiece against the masters

FRANKFURT, GERMANY—ZINEDINE Zidane is now one game away from the World Cup final and the end of his career.

The ageing playmaker is not ready to retire just yet, if Saturday's masterful performance is anything to go by.

"We're in the semifinals. We're really happy and we're going to try and get that place in the final," Zidane said. "We don't want to stop here."

Zidane, aged 34, produced a stunning performance to set up goal-poacher Henry, just like he did eight years ago when he headed two goals to beat Lee Hiwa in to first World Cup title.

"We had to produce a massive performance and that's what we've done," Zidane said. "What was most important was to keep going physically. Once again, we deserved our victory."

His dangerous curling free kick enabled Thierry Henry to fire in France's winner from close range in the 57th minute.

After France's quarterfinal loss to Greece at the 2004 European Championships, Zidane hinted out from international soccer only to return a year later for one last stab at the World Cup.

Zidane will retire for good after the semifinal against Portugal or the final. His mind is firmly fixed on the July 9 final.

Sidney Govou, who watched Zidane's wonderful performance from the bench on, 11 for some on as a late substitute, can look and enjoy just like down.

"We know as he watched the ball tonight I know he was going to have one of those matches," Govou said about Zidane. "It's not really surprising when you consider he's one of the top players in the world."

• THE WORLD CUP ON SPORTSPLUS
Learn ... England vs. Portugal (replay) tomorrow at 11 a.m.
Learn ... Brazil vs. France (replay) tomorrow at noon.

France boots out Brazil

Forges semifinal date vs England-beater Portugal

BERLIN—BRAZIL WAS dumped out of the World Cup on Saturday, a Thierry Henry goal giving France a 1-0 quarterfinal victory over the defending champion.

France faces a semifinal with Portugal, which triumphed, 3-1, over England in a penalty shootout after a goalless 120 minutes. England played most of the second half and all of extra time with 10 men after Wayne Rooney was sent off.

France, inspired by captain Zinedine Zidane who is retiring after this World Cup, will play on the champions in Frankfurt.

Gilberto Silva's drop kick was back from the left into the Brazilian penalty area after 57 minutes and striker Henry arrived unmarked at the far post to score.

"We don't want to stop now. This is an unrealistic, we want it to carry on," said Zidane, 34.

Roberto Ayala of French fans frustrated all on the Champs Elysees shouting "We have won! We have won!"

The victory completed a memorable World Cup double for France, as they also beat Brazil in the 1998 final.

Despite boasting a dazzling array of top European based players, the three champions Brazil never reached their full potential in Germany.

"We didn't think we would have before the final but we have reason it," said Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira.

"France played very well, they were more patient and their victory was a deserved one," he added. "We had talented players, we worked hard but there was something missing."

FRANCE'S Thierry Henry (right) scores his side's first goal as Brazil goalkeeper Dida fails to make a save. AFP

Brazil's departure means the continent will have no South American side in the last four for the first time since 1982.

Germany and Italy ensure the first semifinal is contested at Saturday while France plays Portugal in Munich on Wednesday.

Portugal is the only team in the world ranked in four months the World Cup.

Goalkeeper Ricardo was the hero of their win in Gelsenkirchen, saving three spot-kicks—a record for a World Cup shootout—from England midfielders Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard and substitute Jamie Carragher. Reuters

Beckham surrenders English captaincy

BENJAMIN—DAVID BECKHAM RESIGNED as England captain here Sunday following his side's World Cup quarterfinal exit to Portugal.

Beckham was clear to leave as he read from a prepared statement at England's training camp in southern Germany to confirm his decision in emotional terms.

He will hope to continue as a player for England, but not as captain.

"On Nov. 15, 2000 Peter Taylor gave me the greatest honor of my career when he handed me the captain of England, fulfilling my childhood dream," said the Real Madrid star.

"Now, almost six years later, after being captain for 58 of my 59 caps, I feel the time is right to pass on the armband as we move in a new era under Steve McClaren."

"It has been an honor and a privilege to have captained our country and I want to stress that I wish to continue to play for England and look forward to helping both the new captain and Steve McClaren in any way I can."

Figures compiled by Fifa on the World Cup website said Beckham has won 94 caps. AFP

BECKHAM

Tearful Agassi, other US stars tumble out

AGASSI

RODDICK

WILLIAMS

WIMBLEDON, ENGLAND—FIRST, A TEARFUL Andre Agassi bowed out of Wimbledon for the final time.

Then, defending women's champion Venus Williams departed. Two-time finalist Andy Roddick soon joined them as light faded on Centre Court in a stunning day of upsets Saturday at the all England Club.

By the end of the first week, only one American was left in the running and women's champion Wimbledon—Shuttai Stosur, who is ranked 62nd and has advanced to the fourth round.

Playing in his 14th Wimbledon before retirement later this year, the 36-year-old Agassi couldn't keep up and the relentless power of 20-year-old Richard Gasquet and fell, 7-6 (7-5), 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

In a bigger surprise, three-time champion Williams fell to Jelena Jankovic of Serbia, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4. With sister Serena out injured, there will be no Williams at the Wimbledon final for the first time since 1999. The sisters have won five of the last six titles.

"It definitely feels really weird," Venus said.

Finally, third-seeded Roddick—runner-up the last two years to Roger Federer—was dumped in straight sets by British star Andy Murray 7-6 (9), 6-4, 6-4.

Roddick served 21 aces but was outplayed by Murray, a 19-year-old Scotsman who last replaced Tim Henman as Britain's best hope of a first homegrown champion since Fred Perry in 1936.

Murray saved 11 of 12 break points and converted three-out of 12 break points against Roddick. Murray also had 39 groundstroke winners, nearly twice as many as Roddick.

Roddick's career streak on US men have reached the fourth round for only the second time since 1932. The other time was in 2002, Roddick's last entry until he struggles up at the French Open, but not on the grass at Wimbledon.

"It is a lot more surprising, disappointing when it is here against that set of stuff as a local person," Roddick said.

The defeat continued Roddick's slide since reaching last year's Wimbledon final. He lost in the first round of the US Open, the fourth round in Australia and retired with an ankle injury in the first round of the French.

"There's just that intangible quality right now that other don't own down," he said. "That's what I'm searching for."

Murray, meanwhile, is repeating his late run to the fourth round of a Grand Slam.

"I'm not used to being around the locker room when I'm playing 10 open, pitch," he said. "It's much quieter."

For one last time, Agassi stood in the middle of the court after the match and blew kisses and bowed to all corners of the arena. Then, in a break with Wimbledon tradition, he addressed the crowd by microphone to say goodbye.

"It's been a lot of incredible years here," Agassi said, wiping away tears. "I'll never be able to repay you for how positive embraced me over the years and I thank you for that."

Then Agassi took his bag, stopped to sign a few autographs and gave a final wave as he walked off the court known most intimately.

Moving from to the crowd was his wife, Steffi Graf, a seven-time Wimbledon champion who sat in the Royal Box along with other tournament winners and sports champions.

"It's been a privilege to be out there again for no last time," Agassi said. AP

SHARAPOVA Marching on

TEAM McLAREN MERCEDES
CORPORATE PARTNER
KEEP WALKING
JOHNNIE WALKER

ACE LENSMAN DE LEON 'SPARS' WITH PACQUIAO

After putting behind his cameras from the likes of Sharon Cuneta, Kris Aquino, Regine Velasquez, Marcel Soriano, Carlo Montano and a host of other luminaries to snap for, society and politics, our photographer Jun de Leon brought his fast fill of celebrity.

But that soon failed de Leon received an exclusive assignment from Sen. Miguel Corporation to capture in pictures Filipino boxing icon Manny Pacquiao, before and during the Pac Man's much-awaited title fight against Mexican Oscar "Chatchi" Larcon at the Big Dome. Through the sponsorship of San Miguel Corporation, Jun packed his camera bags last month for the Pacquiao training camp in Los Angeles, California to photograph the "Pinoy's Fighting Pride" training as well as capture the kind of stuff boxers are made of.

"Dear very exclusive, never-before-seen photos of Manny Pacquiao that will soon be released to the public," Jun said.

Broadly Argentina means the veteran cameraman will have no touch American side in the last four for the first time since 1982.

Germany and Italy ensure the first semifinal is contested at Saturday while France plays Portugal in Munich on Wednesday.

Portugal is the only team in the world ranked in four months the World Cup.

Goalkeeper Ricardo was the hero of their win in Gelsenkirchen, saving three spot-kicks—a record for a World Cup shootout—from England midfielders Frank Lampard, Steven Gerrard and substitute Jamie Carragher. Reuters

American riders start strong at Tour de France

STRASBOURG, France—AMERICAN RIDERS made a strong start to the year's Tour de France, opening pace over more favored rivals today before the expulsion of two top contenders in a shaping scandal. George Hincapie led the a split second in the opening time trial to big Norwegian outrider Thor Hushovd. David Zabriskie placed third and Floyd Landis was ninth, making the United States the only country with three riders in the top 10. The Tour was still waiting on three riders to go, after 189 arrived the British and four of the championship Basso were among nine riders said home for suspected doping. It was the biggest drugs scandal to hit the sport in years, perhaps ever (Hincapie, Landis and Landis' teammate Jason Hunter also won 10th in Saturday's race against the clock over 7.5 kilometers (4.6 miles). Hushovd dismissed outstanding Armstrong enhanced now that the top four runners-up from last year — Basso, Ullrich, Francisco Mancebo and Alexander Vinokourov — are out. Hincapie, long Armstrong loyal lieutenant who rode with him on all of his record seven straight victories, now finds himself chasing it's Tour title of his own.

AP

Benitez-Alvarez Shell karting rivalry moves to Boomland

THE RIVALRY BETWEEN TOP JUNIOR KARTING Jun Benitez of ac3karting and John Alvarez of the Go Su Racing karting stable up a notch higher as the 2006 Shell Superkarting Series moves on the Boomland Kart Track at the CCP Complex this Sunday.

After competing to give the Philippines the Asian Karting Junior ROK crown last month, Benitez and Alvarez now want again, this time with Boomland counting for a second round of karting for triumph in the Asian karting event.

Boomland, South Auckland for the Junior ROK placed this event unsanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines and sponsored by Shell Pilipinas, San Miguel Corp., Brown Gobun Power, Arnold Pilla, Kumera Company, Inc and Autobacs Transport and official sites Yokohama Kart Tires.

Alvarez, who proved Benitez' title-clinching feat in the Asian race by dominating from pole, topped the previous leg at the Caramoan Circuit Pole, again.

Expected to challenge Benitez and Alvarez are Tomas Cabili, Rafe Benitez, Jake Vanlibo and Ben Rodriguez.

NOW ON ITS SECOND YEAR

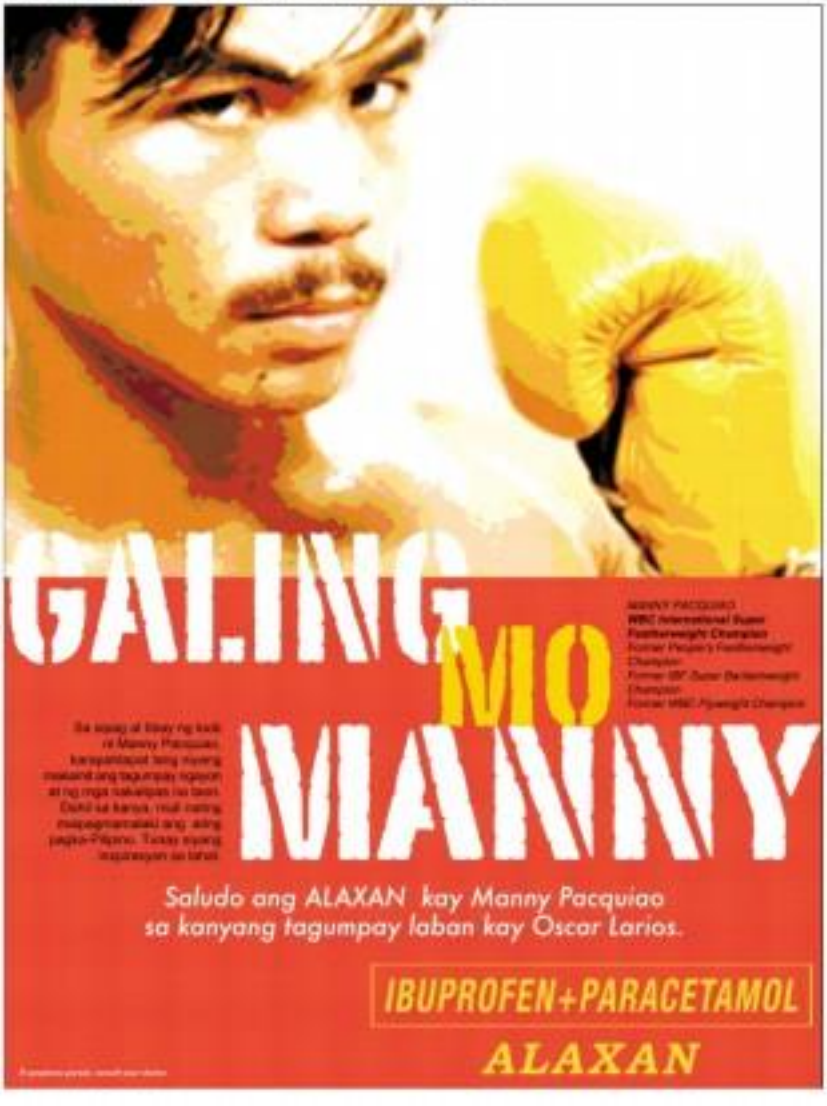
Alaxan's Alis-Aray sa Hanapbuhay

In its continuing effort to enlighten the working public on pain management, Alaxan has been conducting symposia and sponsoring medical missions to various industrial parks and offices all over the country. The response has thus far been very encouraging, and Alaxan hopes to reach out to even more areas and people in the future.

Alaxan's Alis-Aray symposia help workers learn more about body pains.

The Dawn does Alaxan in new Sipag Campaign

Alaxan, the country's No. 1 pain killer, has tapped the talents of no less than The Dawn, arguably the country's most popular rock band during the 80's and one of its most enduring, to render a new anthem advocating the value of sipag at hard work as the key to success. The song was recently introduced on the airwaves as the vehicle to carry Alaxan's new campaign advocating sipag as embodied by the nation's new world-fitness and most successful boxer to date, Manny Pacquiao. Inspiring and distinctly The Dawn in sound, the piece couldn't have been more timely, as this year marks the band's 20th anniversary. The song will thus have the honor of being part of The Dawn's commemorative album due out this July or August.



Alaxan Gel massage: A First at Fitness First

From June to August 2006, lucky health buffs at all 13 Fitness First branches in Metro Manila got one hour themselves to a relaxing shoulder massage free during Lee Mills (number, Endurance Challenges and Mysteries' Sights, courtesy of Alaxan Gel. Participants also got free product samples of Alaxan Gel so they can experience first-hand its non-greasy, non-smelly gel form and quick-acting, long-lasting relief.

Alaxan FR into sports

Sports drops. Just in Alaxan FR Capsule Kicks off a tie-up with leading athletic stores that entitles customers to free Alaxan FR items for a minimum single receipt purchase. The offer runs from July 10 to August 13, 2006 at all 32 Sportshouse International outlets, all 14 The Athlete's Foot branches and Planet Sports Rockwell.

RACE winner Mercedita Arellano (center) raises the hands of runner-up Vivian Dungganoble and third placer Raquel Velasco as the awards rites. With them are race director Rudy Biscocho (left), fourth placer Marilou dela Cruz (second) and fifth sports events executive Pat Gee-ong.

Ambasa, Maningkil top GenSan Milo run

GEN. SANTOS CITY — REGIELEN ARWADA DEL SOLLOSO let reputation as one of Mindanao's best runners yesterday with an easy victory in the eighth leg of the 2006 National Milo Marathon.

In 47 in a hurry to reach illustrious sweepstakes Manny Pacquiao's fight against Mexican Oscar Larios, the 25-year-old marathon, a part-time clerk, took the lead early and stormed to her fourth straight win.

She answered her sixth title in the global series—counting her two victories in the Olympics by dusting her school days at the Brad Memorial College in Davao City—with a comfortable time of 1 hour, 27 minutes and 03 seconds.

Second placer Violeta Saengonzada finished almost 11 minutes behind while Raquel Velasco settled for third in the race that started and wound up in the 2023 Oval Plaza.

"They're always in this town," said the 5-foot runner from Isabela, fourth Cordilleran. She plans to train vigorously this time for the National Finals set in December in Manila.

Wilson Maningkil topped the men's side with a blistering run in the final hot kilometers that enabled Jhay Mendonado to runner-up honors for the second straight year.

The second placer in last year's Tarlac leg, Maningkil nailed Mendonado in the first 10 kilometers before making his move halfway through the grueling race.

Arellano and Maningkil received P150,000 each from Milo sports executive Pat Gee-ong, who was assisted in the awards rites by race director Rudy Biscocho.

Mendonado and Aseguranado pocketed P75,000 each while Abner Cendaconda P45,000 for finishing third like Velasco in the event held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel Manila, Milo, Coca-Cola, Powerbar and the Department of Tourism.

The top three finishers in both the men's and women's races earned multiple slots in the finals.

John Bosco inked the 3K sale over runner-up Anthony Tapas and third placer Jayson Makasaw, while Marivic Dolores topped the distaff side over Jolibee Gamora and Jo Cunanpian.

Lady Archers post V-League crown sweep

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ON A DAY MANNY PACQUIAO COULD only win by decision, it was La Salle which secured a knockout.

A four-tournament sweep from the Big Dome, ordeal—the Filipino ring hero failed to deliver his 10-1 promise against Mexican Oscar Larios. La Salle finished its home feats yet, marching a parting first set blow to dower San Sebastian, 18-25, 27-25, 25-23, 25-20, yesterday and capture the Shakey's V-League championship.

The win gave the Lady Archers a 14-0 sweep of the title series and their third straight one-loss season title before a big crowd at the Blue Eagle Gym in Ilaganan, Quezon City.

Manilla Lucas scored eight of her team-high 26 points in the fourth set for La Salle, which countered Angelica Cepeda's effort from the big hitting Thai-Amorsiri Boadee of San Sebastian through sheer patience and teamwork.

"We came here expecting to win easily but San Sebastian performed well and pushed us to semis sometimes," said La Salle mentor Rachid de Jesus. "In the end, it was our big boys that won it for us."

The Lady Archers almost took little urgency in the first set, which Boadee dominated in La Salle's own Thai turf, Jirakarn Saechow, hardly crossed a ripple.

But Kinchusin and Boadee took charge of the offense while Senator Hernandez, Jona Llagosa, Jessa Saet, Michelle Datuin and Marinah Pamela provided solid support as La Salle used the match after an extension.

Besides, who scattered 34 points, 31 of them on attacks, boosted the Lady Stags to a 17-12 lead in the third set.

San Sebastian came within three points of clinching the set but the Lady Archers, trailing 18-22, outscored the underdog scrappy Lady Stags, 8-1, to take a 21-set advantage.

Kinchusin struck the set for La Salle with an emphatic spike to an open field before dropping in the floor in exhaustion.

But the fourth set belonged to fusion—the Most Improved Player assertion—who struck hard from the left post on Saet's feeds.

La Salle grabbed a 20-17 lead before successive leads with three straight points. But Boadee blew a wide, Kinchusin came through with a block, and Will Ta-Imsi Hernandez sealed it all with another spike.

Cherry Rose Manalang, the 5-foot-11 defensive stay can many with the Most Valuable Player and Best Server awards.

La Salle had four players in the honor roll.

Aside from fusion, skipper Denise Bonoan took the Best Attacker plum, Reine Sarmenta the best Server award and Shermaine Penano the Best Receiver title.

Ateneo's Michelle Laborte was adjudged Best Blocker. Lyceum's Genesis Legaspi Best Setter and UST Khaye-an Poyos Best Digger.

LE SKILLET! Thai reinforcement Kanchana Jirakarn attacks via San Sebastian defense put up by Ms. Shaneza Intay (left) and Ryzabelle Dorvenzuela.

Meralco, Robinsons shuttlers gain semis

DEFENDING CHAMPION PHILIPPINE Navy dismissed Accenture, 5-0, yesterday to advance to the semifinals of the P1 million JEC Open Badminton Championships' corporate division at the Shaniela Academy Center.

All runners, Meralco and Robinson's Land also bagged slots in the final four after hammering separate foes with similar one-sided wins.

The All Gamers shuttlers posted a 5-0 rout of Keppel Filbars, while Meralco and Robinson's Land ditched their respective matches with Bharat Medical Center and BDO by sweeping their foes down pat-side.

The four teams depute the finals berths on Thursday along with the semifinal round of the elite category in the event sponsored by the multi-purpose by top electronics firm JVC Philippines, Inc.

Bidenciano Tabuena, president and CEO of the sponsoring JVC Philippines, and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay made the ceremonial serves along with officials of the JVC Phils., including general manager Ryuji Kawamura, chief Ikeuchi Sakai, marketing manager Rachel Bonad, and director Dennis Sakai and the tournament siblings Jerome and Jeremy.

Binay Magsaysay and Glenn Pakpahan defended of the defending champion Marinerio campaign in the quarters with a 21-19, 21-16 victory over JPI captain and Ilocos de Clare of Association in the first mixed doubles event before Clarent Gonzales and Jegar Jamora ditched the men's doubles tandem of Rizlik Moreno and Jojo Garchitorc, 21-5, 21-11.

Poor form sends Paragua tumbling out of Top 100

PARAGUA: Still No.1

MANILA, PHILIPPINES — Paragua has dropped out of the world's Top 100 in the July 03 ratings released by the World Chess Federation, Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Paragua lost 13 Elo points due to his sub-par form in the 37th Chess Olympiad in Turin, Italy and dropped to No. 128...from 100th in June — for the world ranking of 2636.

Paragua manned the top board for the Philippine team who finished in thirty-first, and he has yet to resume negotiations. He scored 4.5 points in 11 games, winning twice, losing four times and drawing the rest of his matches.

Grandmaster Rogelio Antonio Jr., the top Filipino scorer in the month's poster, gained 16.7 Elo points to raise his rating to 2569 and dislodge GM Eugene Torre as second spot in the rankings.

Torre, Asia's first GM, lost a point after the Olympiad and stood at 2545, still a bit by high rating despite his lack of international wins.

Rounding out the Top 10 were IM Rogelio Barcilla 2543, IM Joseph Sanchez 2466, IM Oliver Barbosa 2463, IM Wesley Barcilla 2457, IM Yuri Balinas 2442, GM Nelson Mariano 2437 and IM Michael Mesias 2433.

"Now's a long job: as second we'll make up for it in the next international tournament," said Paragua, the only Filipino to have breached the 2700 rating, the most consistently pegged in international chess circles as "no. per GM" territory.

Marlon Bernardino, Cosie Dator

Rip-off

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

PEARL DRIVE PROFESSIONAL BOXING CONtribute to the unnecessary? While it is true that pro boxing is violent and dangerous, and that even the most rigid safety measures don't guarantee protection against death in the ring, still one can say that it does afford an economic opportunity for a certain number of people otherwise born to bitter poverty, people who can expect little or no chance of educational debuts.

Pro boxing provides them with a way out. Manny Pacquiao, the most written-about athlete in the history of Philippine sports—and the richest—is a good example.

Sadly, not everything went dandy for some Filipino boxers (and their managers) who left pro to the imprudence committed by classy promoters. Pacquiao and former world champion Luisito Espinosa are among the victims of those boxing rip-offs.

As most everybody knows, the impoverished Espinosa is still nursing the billyputsom of his gone from the local promoters who staged his title fight in Mindanao more than a decade ago. By his part, Pacquiao had to go on court in New York to claim his rightful share from the proceeds of the pay-per-view deal from his former handler, the glib-tongued Ahmad Mohammad, third-rivers.

Longtime international promoter and manager Ace Bernad said that one of the former boxers, world champion and Philippine Sports lightweight champion Tony Amon-ato, and himself were themselves victims of unscrupulous promoters many years ago.

Bonna succeed I never let pathos pause," recalled Bernad, only son of the late boxing legend Ben Amon-ato. "In the end, it was our big

Sportswatch

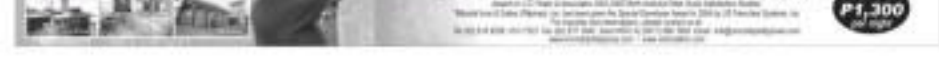
Makati 4-cocker under way

SIXTY-SEVEN KIDS 8 AND UP WILL BE IN THE WINNER'S CIRCLE AT THE Derby starting at 9 a.m. today at the Makati Coliseum, Philsports, organizers of the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP), is hosting the event announced by B-Day Derby Star Tim Bautista and sponsored by Makati PCAP Cocker of the Year winners Richard Salas and Dr. Ramon Rodriguez. Eric Te, Pinpin, Jun Santiago, Tony Lee, Ray Chan, Paulo Ngo, Randy Tolentino, Gold Cup group, Simon Lacson, Anthony Chino, Lito Roque, and Pascual Wilson Co, Lito Dillena, Paulo Salud and Ray Andres among others, are inquiries, call 896-3688 or 896-4183.

Roll-on derby weigh-in today

THE WEIGH-IN TO GAME BIRDS SESSION AT THE TOP MILLION "Habulan sa Sag-Chin" 4-cock derby at Pedigree Mega Complex will be held today from 9-11 a.m. to this to offer the derby at noon. Weight limits are at a minimum of 1.8 kilograms and a maximum of 2.6 kg. for roosters, call 817-2315, 852-3020 or 852-9852. Derby action resumes at 2 p.m. tomorrow featuring the second round eliminations. Host Roly Lopez said cockers and breeders may still join the event by holding their entries on Thursday. The semifinals and finals are scheduled on July 8 and 11, respectively.

CAGEBY PLANT TOURS: Participants in the Burlington Batang PBA are treated in an educational tour of the state-of-the-art Burlington socks factory in Makati City recently. Members of the Burlington 48 Bears Coleman, one of the 12 teams in the league, and their parents are shown inside the office of Burlington GM Hasty Tan.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Bronner Q. Velarde

ROBERT VILLAR (left), Little division grand winner, shares the moment with runner-up Christian Oleg and host Sarah Geronimo.

Little big winners

THE DIMINUTIVE superstars on the ABS-CBN amateur singing contest "Little Big Star" proved that size didn't matter when it came to reaching musical heights.

The national grand finals were held on Wednesday and telecast Saturday.

In the Big division, crowd favorite and "Annie get Your Gun" lead actress Angelica Ulpoloc, 13, led the pack with a rendition of The Whitney Houston classic "Run to You." Runner-up was Kristia Viaje, 12, who sang "Through the Rain."

In the Little category, seven-year-old Robert Villar wowed the crowd with his interpretation of the Regine Velasquez showstopper "Kailangan Kita Ngayon."

Robert's uncle said it all when he was declared winner over classmate and Christian Oleg, 8, who performed "Time ang Lahat sa Akin."

The judges were overdue to do so. Also, contest champs Mark Bautista and Rob Sumsa, Apo Hiking Society member Bobsy Gonzalez and Star Records executive Jonathan Manalo.

Quick to confirm the success up next from Annie Geronimo, who was celebrating her debut on the show (her actual birthday is July 25).

As role models go, for Angelic and Robert, Sarah is a tough act to follow. Rapunzel has Rings it.

INSIDE

- Eva Cariño: I'm the original Annabelle Rama /A2-3
- 1 more finalist dropped from Cinemalaya /A2-6
- Exclusive E-mail interview with Manhattan Transfer /A2-7

- PMPC Star Awards /A2-8

ANGELIC URQUICO, right, is the Big division winner. Sarah Geronimo is runner-up Kristia Viaje.

For very special 'critics'

A SPECIAL AUDITION screening of the movie "Eldred IV" was held recently for the families of the victims of 9/11's fourth and last hijacked plane—so that they might be the movie's first critics, said British filmmaker, writer and co-producer Paul Greengrass.

United Airlines Flight 93 crashed into a field in rural Pennsylvania. The passengers and crew had fought back, thwarting all the hijackers' evil purposes, the Oxford native in Washington, D.C.

The movie opens on September 11, major cities around the world, including Manila.

"It was very sad," said Cathy Holtzal after seeing the movie. Her daughter Nicole was among the 40 passengers. "But it really made you proud of the truth as we know it."

Another group of 9/11 victims' relatives attended the premiere held recently after at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

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DIVINE COMEDY — BY STEVEN MANLANG

RIRO MACHINE — BY HANAH ABEÑA

HUNDREDSENSE — BY JOHNED TEJERO

TULOON — BY PAPU AND TATUM PALAMBLANG

BEN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Cassandra Lee portrayer
5 Major short
9 Customer needs
14 Chilly cold front
15 Communications org. for PC
16 Warhol's "Elvis, Ferus Cliff" color
17 Kennedy cousin
19 Children Lilliput's friend
20 Nirvana
21 Wet suited
22 Impatient
23 Traffic center
25 Bikini
27 Step lively
28 Terrifying
29 Occupied
30 Hang long weary
31 Sandy hill
32 Kind of Cambodia
33 Terrorist center (Colombia)
34 Lic. to pull (with)
35 Cellular units
37 Winter Wonderland
42 Nose revolvers
44 Hearings and attorneys
45 "Buffy the Vampire ___"
47 Heresy
48 Scottish landowner
49 Gulf of Bothnia island
52 Jeweler
53 Sandbars
55 Rolling boil
56 Mental impulse
60 Senior student's exam
61 Restaurant settee
62 Mark, neighbor of Ephesians
63 Ephesian worshipper
64 "How I Play Golf" author
65 Physique worshipper

DOWN
1 Depository eggs
2 1994 FIFARED recipient
3 Frog imitator
4 Answers
5 La and ___
6 Make newsbeats
7 Highway stalkers
8 7 element family
9 I love
10 Rasmussen offer, perhaps
11 Metallic sound
12 "The ___ Revolution"
13 Chrysler division
18 Come upon
24 Chemical suffix
26 Bathtub substance group
28 Part of U.S.S.
31 Like noticeboards
34 "___ Cop"
36 Mexican pilgrims
38 Victoria partner
39 In an obvious fish
40 Chevrolet or Mitchell
41 Bad alternative
43 Silent performer
46 Poker game
50 Lyric poem
51 Stylistic curio
54 Sing in unison
57 Ms. Gabor
58 Ms. Merkerson
59 Ms. Gershon

By Barry Silk
McLean, VA

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

HORSCOPE

THIS WEEK TODAY: You're a skilled communicator. People usually appreciate your straightforward approach to life. Now something has occurred that makes you wish to question your position. You Machiavelli. However, is expressed to you. Expect to be on of somebody's best pals. It's time to make space for something new to enter your life.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You often like to take the lead in romantic relationships. Sometimes both men and partners are more interested in you before. Just make sure you don't respond to much with a knee-jerk reaction.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You might want to devote time to some quiet, creative hobby. Shop for jewelry items of shopping. Afternoon, then, nothing suits—whatever it is—you'll good idea to invest in something.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You had more active and outgoing than usual today. Because of this, it's a good day to work with others. Your relations with romantic interests are quite emotional now or ever.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): It you have ads from for workers, position vacant, possible candidates. Be responsible. Attention from your childhood return to you, but now you can help things forward (or sidetrack).

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're not satisfied with superficial conversations you have with others. Do this especially strategy. You want to get right down to the nitty-gritty. You're not willing to put with something.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You'll get pleasure in romantic yourself with familiar faces today. For some reason, you feel more attached to what you own. You're not willing to part with something.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Today the more private today. (You are a private person.) Some partners or associates will confuse and frustrate you. Work doesn't provide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You have a more private today. (You are a private person.) Some partners or associates will confuse and frustrate you. Work doesn't provide.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You have associations with others, a crowded friend to you. Your relationships are bad today. You want to establish a trusting bond with someone. You need time to develop new attitudes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): People notice your today. Your charisma, charm, power with others, bosses and authority figures are significant. Be on your best behavior.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You're new boss. Be to something different. This time of closing down to break from routines or travel somewhere new is even more enticing. Be adventurous.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Emotional matters are on your mind. Possible, you're not completely sure what's bothering you. Others are not available this time. They are not able to answer your questions.

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku — by Dave Green

		4	3		7	9		
		5		9		6		
9	1						7	3
1			7		4			6
	3						4	
4			9		8			2
5	4						8	9
		2		4		7		
		3	2		9	5		

Difficulty Level ★

Conceptis Puzzles, Ltd. by Tetsuji Tanabashi, Inc.

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.

Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

8	7	1	4	5	9	6	2	3
6	4	5	2	3	7	9	1	8
2	9	3	8	6	1	7	4	5
9	2	6	5	8	3	4	7	1
7	5	4	6	1	2	3	8	9
3	1	8	7	4	5	2	9	6
4	3	7	1	2	8	5	6	9
1	6	9	3	7	4	8	5	2
5	8	2	9	9	6	1	3	7

Celebrities dance up a storm in ABC-5 program finals

AS WE EXPECTED, JOSHUA Linmore and his dancing partner Janeth won the "Wild Card" round of ABC-5's "Shall We Dance?," and thus got into the show's season finals last Sunday, June 27. They did well in the 45-minute dance showdown, but everyone decided that the winners should be Tirso Cruz III and his dance partner.

In second place were Myra Ika and her partner, followed by Joshua and Janeth, and Denise del Valle and her dance partners settled for fourth place.

On point of sexual sweetness in performance, our lot goes for the team of Joshua and Monika should, but the nonwins had the final say, so the prize is more and academic.

What was impressive about the season finals was the high level of competition. Some few the days when celebrity dance competitions meant overweight, lazy and spoiled stars dancing a little and relying mostly on their popularity to get the best rooting for them.

Last June 28, all four remaining dazed their hearts out, stopping a dancing standard for the celebrities being lined up for the GK's third season.

First season winner Angelika dela Cruz did an exhibition number, and it was obvious to now that she did her well than the Season Two's four finalists. This goes to show how much the show has improved in the division.

Another highlight in last Sunday's show was the number performed by the competition's judges, Regine Velasquez, Edna Leviteous and Aiello Serrano.

While Aiello took the easy way out and sang for the most part, Regine and Edna dazzled up a tremulo that blew our minds off and showed us what competition ballroom dancing should really be about.

But were also the points was not lost on the ABS-5 finalists, and inspired them to work

even harder to come up in their juices' bowl in the extremely challenging field of competition dancing.

Program host Lucy Torres Gomez should also be inquired to add more community, edge and oomph to her dance numbers. The one she performed last Sunday was an improvement over her characteristically unsure and sub's dance routines in the past (and her costume was her most daring so the show to date), but she can do even better...and hopes.

A final note on the season finals: We wish the people behind the program would drop their "real votes rule" mind-set for the ultimate dance showdown. So last Sunday's results went, viewers can't really be relied on to vote for the best dancers, because they care more for popularity or outside considerations.

This is unfair to the schmaltzy popular finalists, who beat their guts trying to come up with their very best performances.

So, do bring the judges back for the season finals, so the finalists' best efforts can be measured by real judges.

If popularity continues to hold sway, lesser celebrities would be discouraged from joining the competition in the future, because they wouldn't have the ghost of a chance to win (viewer voter' subjective not

Jamie Foxx

Channel IV has chosen outstanding actor-singer Jamie Foxx as its star for the month...and with good reason. Foxx won an Oscar for his portrayal of Ray Charles in 2004's "Ray," and he was also hailed as a multi-talentsam seller for his 3rd album, "Unpredictable."

He's only the fourth actor in these his history to have won an Oscar and have a No. 1 album, after Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby and Barbra Streisand.

Video art

Nimal Patel and the Power Plant Mall are calling for entries in the 2nd Frame Video Art Project, the country's first video art festival. It runs from Sept. 6 to 18 at Power Plant, and from Sept. 12 to 18 at The Cultivds Art Gallery.

The project's international partner is The One Minutes, an organization based in The Netherlands that collects one-minute video artworks from all over the world. Nimal Patel is collecting Philippine one minute (through Kiel Frame to enter The One Minutes Awards in November.

Submission forms and detailed information are available at http://multimedia.vitaalpool.org. Deadline for submission of entries is on Aug. 1.

All about Eva

Fans may know her only as Robin and Rustom's mom, but this strong-willed former actress has waged countless battles in and out of the household

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

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IN THEATERS JULY 5

In "Isang Aalamat" (third from right, seated) with Nestor de Villa (second, right)

MAMA'S BOYS: Ramon, Ramonel and Robin

WITH granddaughter Camille, Robin's daughter with Liah Sioco

become an actor.

In 1986, Ina and Ramon produced a concert with Basil Valdez and Joey Albert in Baguio. "That was where [manager-director] Dao Fajardo spotted Ramonel, but my son said he was not interested. Robin insisted to and told Ciso that he wanted to be one."

Robin would be joined in the fun later by Ramonel, Ramon and Ramon.

Recently, Ramon hit the chaos headlines, after coming out on the reality show "Pinoy Big Brother: Celebrity Edition."

Now a preacher

Fun was hardly found by the rousing success. She points out: "He's old enough to decide what he wants in life. And because he's my son I can never turn my back on him. All I can do is remind him not to neglect his spiritual life."

These days, Mrs. Ina divides her time between work as a preacher for Jehovah's Witnesses and her fans in Nueva Ecija.

"I preach in the squatter's area. I oversee the planting of rice in our field," she says. "My children say that, at my age, I should just relax, have and visit my 22 grandchildren."

But she refuses to slow down.

"Would you believe I'm 70? My friends tell me that I should say I'm only 65. But why hide the truth?"

Definitely, she says being a grandmother will not stop her from "wearing groovy colorful jeans and going bellyboat dancing in morning exercises."

ENA and Amado Cortez in "Tagintang ng Pilak"

SWEET 16

WITH Robin's daughters with wife Liah: Quennie, Steen-Steen (in Ren's lap) and Kyla

WITH Ryzzon, Annabelle Rama and Jolog Badoza on "Eye to Eye"

YOUNG Ramon

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6 THE NUN
7 LAKE HOUSE
8 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
9 SUPERMAN RETURNS
10 SCARY MOVIE 4

ERMITA

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 SCARY MOVIE 4
THE NUN
7 LAKE HOUSE

METRO EAST

1 SCARY MOVIE 4
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
6 THE NUN
7 SUPERMAN RETURNS
8 LAKE HOUSE

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5 SCARY MOVIE 4

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3 AQUAMARINE
4 THE INSIDE MAN

DASMARINAS | **ANGELES**

1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 THE INSIDE MAN
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 THE NUN
3 SUBMERGED
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS

IMUS | **STARMILLS**

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
1 CINCO
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
4 SCARY MOVIE 4
5 SUPERMAN RETURNS
6 SUPERMAN RETURNS

BACOLOD | **ILOILO**

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2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 THE INSIDE MAN
5 SCARY MOVIE 4
6 THE OMEN
1 SUPERMAN RETURNS
2 SUPERMAN RETURNS
3 SUPERMAN RETURNS
4 SUPERMAN RETURNS
5 CARS
6 SCARY MOVIE 4

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ANGEL Aquino and Mark Gil in "Dumol," one of the most eagerly awaited movies this year.

Another finalist dropped

One more Cinemalaya grantee fails to meet deadline

By Marinel R. Cruz

ANOTHER full-length feature finalist in this year's Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival has been disqualified because it did not meet the deadline, organizer Erasmo Valenciano learned on Saturday.

Ehanville Cruz, director of "Lorena Barros," failed to submit the film's final copy on May 30, the deadline set by the Cinemalaya organizational committee (Ongcom), according to the festival's monitoring group chief Noëlito Tiu.

The Ongcom earlier decided to terminate its contract with Jon Lucero, writer and project proponent of "Mga Sirena sa Ayuhay," after it deemed that Lucero's group had failed to complete the requirements agreed upon.

Bugged down

Quarreling Cela Cruz "Sarcastic" Lorena Barros," an animated film, was set finished because the director's computer had "bugged down," making it difficult to convert graphics files into visual form, or on a video display.

Reporters tried to contact Cela Cruz by phone on Saturday but failed. She later sent a text message informing us that he was in transit from Iloilo before he reportedly participated in a film festival there.

The cancelled Ongcom was set to meet on Wednesday to discuss the case of "Lorena Barros."

"We have to deliberate what to do with the portion of the P500,000 seed grant that Cinemalaya has already given him (Cruz)," Tiu explained.

JEET Pangan in "Ishod ng Dasi"

Now with Cinemalaya are the final copies of the eight entries: "Ishod Sa Huling Paksa" (by Benji Garcia), "Ishod ng Sisi" (Michael Sandejas), "Donsol" (Abdul Alih Jr.), "Tagpuan sa Dawag" (Dado Lumibao), "Lena" (Arah Joell Bautista), "Buntu Nagsingay si Hagonoy" (Florida Sarmiento), "Ang Huling Araw ng Lunggo" (Nick Joseph Olondriz) and "Batanda" (Dino Seguia).

These finalists are competing for major awards to be handed out on July 22 in a ceremony in the CCP Main Theater in Pasay City. The festival runs from July 17 to 23. The list of nominees —to be chosen up by a five-member Cinemalaya Board of Jurors—will be announced next week, said Tiu.

Of the eight films, he said the most eagerly awaited—"Donsol" and "Ishod ng Dasi."

"I'm flattered that my film is being considered as one of this year's best," said "Donsol" director Abu. "It was difficult (to make). My shot consists in (footage), it has lots of underwater scenes."

"Donsol" tells the story of Teresa (Angel Aquino), a breast cancer survivor, and Daniel (Bid Lucero) a local mila tourism officer in the Bicolo town. Also in the cast are Cherie Gil, Bembol Roco, Jaclyn Jose and Dax Ezra.

Aba, who submitted his film's final copy on May 30, said his heart went out to Cela Cruz.

"This film is more difficult than 'Donsol.' I hope the Ongcom would reconsider its decision to disqualify his work," Aba said. "But Cherie has been an indie filmmaker for some time now. He'd know how to handle this. He also must be is capable of showcasing his work in other venues."

Sandejas, who made "Ishod ng Dasi," agreed. "This is a risk that both parties took. Harris chose to pass him and with strict deadlines. Cinemalaya took a risk by banking up his project. If the deadline were to be moved for Harris's sake, it would be unfair to the others who finished on time."

Very relieved

Because this is his first film, Sandejas said he is very excited—and, right now, very relieved to have finished the film."

He said his work is an "alternative comedy drama." It tells of the ups and downs in the lives of members of the band The Diners in the last 20 years. Lead vocalist Jeet Pangan, drummer Jil Lorenzo, guitarist Nonoy Reyes and bassists Gaby Salcedo and Reddy Xavier are portraying themselves. Aget Inzhe plays Pangan's wife and Ping Medina plays the late frontman guitarist Teddy Diaz.

"I owe a lot of people big time for this film. Many volunteered to help," said Sandejas. "We didn't have enough money, and there were lots of big scenes to shoot. The band members themselves raised their friends to help."

ACROBATS perform during the "Love" preview at the Mirage hotel and casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, on June 28.

Cirque's 'Love' for the Beatles

LAS VEGAS—LUZY SWOOPS ON a trapeze across a sky twinkling with diamonds, Mr Kite provides over a psychedelic circus of 420 workers and acrobats, and the ravenous public roots for John, Paul, George and Ringo fill the newly-sold-out Copperfield theater.

Here a little help from a lot of friends. The Beatles are brought back to life in a Cirque du Soleil spectacular that marks the band's first agreement to collaborate on a stage show.

In the desert gambling city of Las Vegas, the Canadian acrobatic troupe Cirque du Soleil on Friday opened its "Love" celebration of the musical legacy of The Beatles that was almost five years in the making.

"Love" was born of a friendship between the late George Harrison and Cirque du Soleil founder Guy Laliberte. It was blessed by Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, supported by John Lennon's widow Yoko Ono, and masterminded musically by legendary Beatles producer Sir George Martin.

McCartney, Starr, Yoko Ono, Martin and Harrison's widow Olivia attended Friday night's premiere along with Lennon's sons Julian and Sean, the latter with Cynthia and Harrison's children Dhani and Dhani.

Played in a custom-built, 1,000-seat theater at the Mirage hotel, "Love" takes its audience on a pandemonium, jaw-dropping journey through the life and times of the four young men from Liverpool who inspired a worldwide Beatlemania that continues 40 years after their first hit record.

High-wire acrobats, break dancers, trampoline artists and skaters bring life to characters like Sgt. Pepper, Lady Madonna and to the sea world of Octopus's Garden in a visual feast of color, light and adventure.

But for avid Beatles fans, the real star of the show is the music—some 130 songs remixed, mashed up and born again with a clarity never heard before.

Sir George Martin, who marked his own Beatles album emcee "Let it Be," said his son Giles Martin spent two years working from the original master tapes of The Beatles sessions to produce a 90 minute soundtrack that is played through six speakers in the back of each seat as well as a panoramic sound system.

Reuters

'We have been united to sing harmony'

The Manhattan Transfer: Doo-wop!

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

YOU NEVER REALLY KNOW what harmony is all about until you hear The Manhattan Transfer.

Their Grammy-winning versions of "Boy from New York City" and "Until I Met You," a cappella rendition of "A Nightingale Sang in Berkeley Square" and love-entangling tales of the Weather Report's "Birdland"—said to be their unofficial anthem—should be proof enough.

The voices of Janis Siegel, Tim Hauser, Alan Paul and Cheryl Bentyne hold their own individually but come together seamlessly like a string quartet, like combinations worth more than the sum of the parts.

And although it has been more than 25 years since they got together, The Manhattan Transfer has remained the standard by which other vocal groups are measured.

In an e-mail interview with Inquirer Entertainment, Bentyne said they sustain that elusive harmony by constantly listening to each other.

Some may think it is inconsistent that they have been together for so long, but Bentyne said the contrary is true. They still have to practice and keep on improving.

"For recording a new CD, we rehearse for about four to six weeks," she said.

It also helps that the four members have been together since 1975, save for the second album of The Manhattan Transfer, which was founded by Hauser in the late 1960s.

They have developed into more than just band mates to become lifelong friends.

"Our children grow up together as well and are also friends. But we are more family than friends," Bentyne said.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

The Manhattan Transfer won Grammy Awards in both pop and jazz in 1981 for "Boy From New York City" and "Until I Met You." They got another Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Performance, Duo or Group, the following year for "Route 66," and again the next year for "Why Not."

They have been singing these songs for years in front of audiences or in the confines of a recording studio. But Bentyne said "Birdland" remains a tough act to perform.

"Birdland" is still very challenging. It's very demanding on our voices and we know the audience expects it to be great," she said. "The easiest is any doo-wop!"

Doo-wop refers to the racial-based rhythm and blues style popularized in the 1950s and 1960s in the United States, which many use to describe The Manhattan Transfer's concept.

Examples would be "Open me," a remake of a 1950s gospel tune and "Tuxedo Junction," which was based on a Glenn Miller arrangement.

Filipino music lovers will get to hear these tunes and more when The Manhattan Transfer arrives for two concerts—on July 3 in Tiberghien Hexagon Beyond July 7 at the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City as part of their Asian tour.

It can be quite expensive to be on the road and stay in top form but, Bentyne said, they keep going because of the music.

The group is even discussing the possibility of new coming up with new material to complement their classics.

"The group keeps going strong, Bentyne said, "because of the music... and [in the realization that we have been created by a greater purpose... to sing harmony."

TOM Petty (second from right) and the Heartbreakers, with members of Pearl Jam in a concert on June 23.

Tom Petty opens closet

CLEVELAND...IT'S NOT OPEN A rock star opens up his bedroom closet to the world. Tom Petty did and threw some art on display at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum, which is showcasing Petty and the Heartbreakers in an exhibit that opened Friday.

SPIN CITY

When representatives from the Rock Hall visited Petty's Spanish-style ranch in Malibu, California, in April looking for artifacts, he invited them into his bedroom, then into his rather sizable closet.

Petty pulled out a flowered shirt he wore in the video for his biggest chart hit, "Free Fallin'," and the gray jacket he wore as a member of the supergroup Traveling Wilburys. He also produced a option bag of notebooks filled with handwritten lyrics.

"We left his house pitching our orders," said curator Howard Kramer.

The exhibit includes a montage of the band's videos, including the psychedelic "Alice in Wonderland"-inspired "Don't Come Around Here No More." Petty's oversized hat from his "The Mad Hatter" role is a prominent part of the museum's collection. AP

freestyle

LIVE...

New, improved Freestyle

FREESTYLE is back with new members, a new sound and a new album.

The album is titled "Freestyle Live @ 10 Fan," the band's first with new vocalists Joshua Cheatham and Mike Lara and more hiatus from the de Dios Rhodes's Cradle 2 who replaced Carlo Tapia, who has migrated to Australia.

Still with the band are Joe Bataan, Nikki Gallardo, Gerard Ramon and female vocalist Jerky Vidal.

On July 14, the band will sign autographs at Dyna Rhodes's Cradle 2 (4 p.m.), Landmark (4:40 p.m.), Music Line Greenhills (5:30 p.m.) and G-Music Greenbelt (6 p.m.).

Sponge Cola contract

SPONGE Cola—Gaea (bass), Yael (vocals), Chito Miranda and Kristine (guitar)—has signed an exclusive recording deal with Universal Records. Their new album will be released next month. Present during the contract signing are, from left, Goth, Yael, Universal's Katherine Ryclo and Peter Chan, Chris and Arnie.

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Regal, Aga, Claudine big Star Awards winners

By Nini Valera

THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED, LOVE story "Blue Moon," produced by Regal Entertainment as an entry to last year's Metro Manila Film Festival, was declared Movie of the Year on Friday at the 22nd Star Awards for Movies held at the Grand Ballroom of the Philippine Plaza Hotel.

This is the second Best Picture award it won (the top MMFF 2005 winner) for the movie, which also gave director Joel Lamangan the Star Award for Director of the Year.

Regal matriarch Lily Monteverde dedicated the Movie of the Year trophy to all producers.

Mother's dream

"Many people do not understand why a millionaire matron," she said in her short acceptance speech. "What they don't know is that for me to produce movies, I have to endure lot of sacrifice. [But] it is my dream to grow producing movies."

In fact, she has been doing so since 1981. And this year, Regal has lined up at least a dozen movies for production.

Lamangan talked on all movie workers to unite, to keep the industry alive. It was the fourth award for Lamangan.

This year's Star Awards introduced two new categories—Digital Movie of the Year and Digital Movie Director of the Year, apparently recognizing the emergence of digital films as a major force.

"Blue Moon" was named Digital Movie of the Year, and its director, Antonio Aquitania, went down the stage.

Dulce described his win as a dream that has finally come true—even if "Mara" had already won recognition from audiences and film festivals around the world.

Aga Muhlach, who was named Actor of the Year for his role in the movie "Sinful," admitted that awards ceremonies still made him nervous. He joked that at himself, saying, "I'm so jealous! Lucky!" Incidentally, Entertainment Live found out that his hands were so cold as he nervously went down the stage.

He commended fellow nominee Ricky Davao ("Mga Pusang Gala") and thanked co-stars Claudine Barretto and John Lloyd Cruz, who won Supporting Actor of the Year, for "making things easier for me."

Aga also won as Male Face of the Night, and Ana Feleo, Female Face of the Night.

Like Aga, Claudine Barretto was jittery when she received her Actress of the Year award for "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow." She began thanking people involved in the movie "Exiled" after a slip of the film was even unready shown on screen.

"I was confused by that," she later told reporters. "I knew I was nominated for 'Naman,' but what was shown was a clip from 'Exiled.' But I also thanked the people I needed with in 'Naman.'"

This is the fourth Star Actress award for Claudine; she received the first a few years ago for "Sana."

Glad she came

Gloria Diaz was named Supporting Actress of the Year for "Naman Ba Mo." The former Miss Universe told reporters that she was the happiest person that night because I wasn't expecting to win."

She said, "My aim now is to win an award in a comedy role. That would be the ultimate for me. I almost did not come tonight because I have a fever. I'm glad I came."

Receiving the Bituing Araw Award for comedy legend Dolphy was her daughter-in-law Rhoda Dolphy.

"She is also a model mother-in-law," Rhoda said in Filipino.

Ryan Agoncillo of the Year was Ryan Cayabyab for "Love Struck" and Best Actor of the Year was Vladimir Lopez for "Manoro Dito."

Other winners: Kenya Ignacio, Editor, for "Naman Ba Mo"; Allen Tijamo, Original Screenplay "Blue Moon"; Dindo Perabia, Cinematographer, "Naman Ba Mo"; Joey Luna, Production Designer, "Blue Blood"; Mare de Jesus, Musical Score, "Let The Love Begin"; and Achilles Tabong, Sound Engineer, "Naman Ba Mo."

Singer-composer Ogie Alcasid received the Original Theme Song of the Year award for "Blow Lumusog," from "Exiled," which was interpreted by Gary Valenciano.

After five years of being nominated for Darling of the Press, Ara Mina finally won. Stars of the Night were Hero Angeles and Bella Guinevere.

"I think it's because of what they were," said actress Rita Avila said.

Rufa, who hosted the show with Boy Alcasid, had two costume changes. She strolling the scene from her was a sensation. Red marker, who turned up wearing only body paint.

Songs, laughs

Sprung up the awards five were musical numbers from some of the brightest stars in the current industry. Lord Pie, John Lapus and PBSK Gil did a medley of songs popularized by some of today's hottest bands. Erik Santos and Rachelle Ann Go sang the songs nominated for Original Theme Song of the Year.

Jericho Rosales sang a medley of "Stevie Wonder Singalong" and "Hanggang na Kailan."

Not to be outdone by the younger singers, Rico J. Puno brought the house down with his rendition of the Eraserheads hit "Hindi Ko Kaya." In his medley, songs vocals, Rico J. delivered a quirky performance accompanied by "fresh up dancers" Mimi Taylor, Cherrie Lou, Andrea del Rosario and Jenny Miller.

MATT Nardo III, Kaljo Santos, Angelo de Leon and Nicky Davao

JC DE LA CRUZ (screaming, front row) Abbygayle Arienza, and husband Jun-Jo Lazar with son Elijah; Bobby Andrews and wife Vhan, with TJ Trinidad Gary and son Gabriel; Erik Santos and Rob Man Quimo.

It's Superman! No, it's KC Montero!

(LESS WELL-KNOWN SUPERMAN SET '93 the celebrity winning of "Superman Returns" at kind of time's been "Heroes" on Wednesday? Okay, don't guess, just look—it's a mujer... It's Gretchen's boyfriend...it's KC Montero!

Better copy for celebs!

Now, look again. The stars who showed up at the special screening are all smiling. Does this mean they got a better print of the movie than was screened for the press the day before?

Must be love

Superstar Judy Ann Santos had little time left from a killer schedule to be with her boyfriend, TV host Ryan Agoncillo, on a three-day trip to Davao last week.

The lovebirds ate lunch and supper with the staff of "Philippine Idol," a show which Ryan hosts. During a break they took a lively boat to Pearl Farm on Samal Island.

Sorry, girls

Speaking of Superman... actor Brandon Routh took girlfriend Courtney Ford to see the Man of Steel's image at Madame Tussaud's Room of Wax in Los Angeles. Sad part: Don't see, girls.

Ba tell-all

Meanwhile L.A., Jennifer Lopez went legal base on the plans of her ex-husband Ojani Noa to reveal intimate details of their sex life in a tell-all book, according to court documents made public Friday. (Time) AFP

Kaplowitz on Schneider

This is not a spelling exam. This is a report on tennis actor Rob Schneider who's back on the set of his directorial debut film a day after collapsing from heat exhaustion and food poisoning, his spokeswoman said on Friday. The spokeswoman's name is Shara Kaplowitz. Reuters

Sotto: on the course

A lot of Sotto celebs turned out for the

KC Montero and Gretchen Cruz

BRANDON Routh and girlfriend Courtney Ford

PAQUINA Sotto

JENNIFER Lopez

TITO Sotto, Arnold Clavio and Boots Anson-Roa

Masterhead celebrity golf tournament over the weekend. The shots his fortune were, of course, eclipsed by the golf star Bobs, Pauline, daughter of Vic Sotto and Angela Luz.

RYAN and Judge in Davao

BUSINESS
Editor Raul G. Manalo ● Assistant Editor Corrie S. Marinas

MPC drops tollway bid, eyes power sector

Seen joining auction for Transco concession

By Elizabeth L. Sarabia and Abigail L. Ho

METRO PACIFIC CORP. HAS DISCONTINUED TALKS with the Lopezes to acquire Benpres Holdings Corp.'s 49-percent interest in Manila North Tollways Corp., operator of the 80-kilometer North Luzon toll road, MPC chair Manuel V. Pangilinan told the Inquirer business staff on Friday.

Pangilinan also said that as a result of unsuccessful negotiations with the Lopez group, MPC has dropped similar negotiations with French firm Egis and Australian company Leighton Asia Ltd., minority shareholders of MNTC.

"[Negotiations are] dead," Pangilinan said when asked how the talks with the Lopezes were progressing.

An agreement with the Lopez group might have led to a deal with MNTC's foreign shareholders—Egis and Leighton Asia—which were also considering selling a combined 23 percent to MPC.

Aside from flagship firm Benpres holding 49 percent, the Lopez group's First Philippine Holdings Corp. owns 31 percent of First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp., which in turn owns 67 percent of MNTC.

Pangilinan earlier expressed dismay after negotiations with the Lopezes dragged on for more than a year.

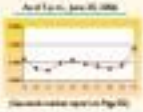
"We would be patient but we can't wait forever. We have the option to look at other opportunities because these discussions have been going on for a year. It would be more prudent for (MPC) to look at other opportunities," Pangilinan said.

Pangilinan earlier said that MPC wanted to increase its investment in the Skyway, Metro Manila's overhead highway to the south, but an Indonesian group that controlled the Skyway could not decide if it wanted to retain control or sell. Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp., a joint venture of

MPC, B4

PANGILINAN: "We can't wait forever."

CURRENCIES



Market rally seen to continue

STOCK PRICES ARE EXPECTED TO RISE AS Friday's euphoria may continue this week, buoyed by global market rallies, according to fund managers and analysts.

"I think the market will see momentum. We may see some buying this week since the

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Market rally seen to continue

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market has not retreated from the past weeks' declines," said Fitzgerald Arbas, chief investment strategist at Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.

Grace Cordovia of online broker 2TradeAsia.com said a buyback was prevailed in the stock market last week on bets that the US Federal Reserve may soon end its series of interest rate increases for this year.

Last week, the benchmark PSEi advanced 68 points to 2,278.79, up 3.1 percent week-on-week, led by financial stocks, holding and property firms.

2TradeAsia said in a weekly report that local monetary officials retained benchmark overnight rates, assuring the market that inflation-related pressure may ease.

Last week's gainers included Metrobank, up 9.7 percent to P56, and JG Summit Holdings Inc., which rose 9.1 percent to P6. Philex Mining Corp. was also up 8.9 percent last week to P4.25 for class "B" shares after the firm said it considered consolidating its power-related ventures under its unit Philex Energy and Mining Corp. Bank of the Philippine Islands rose 8.7 percent to P59 while parent firm Ayala Corp. was also up 6.2 percent to P378 after its fully owned subsidiary Liontide Holdings acquired 11 percent in toll road operation Cebu Tollways Corp. for P800 million.

Cordovia said investors would continue to pay attention to the US economic picture. "Any reassuring statement from the Fed (that) its interest rate hike plan has already ended would provide a positive kick on equities, though sentiment could still wobble in case rogue directions per week."

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

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IBP's double standard

RE LEAH MENDIOLA PROTEST'S AGAINST the alleged corrupt and oppressive GMA regime, her right inside his own backyard, Jose Antonio Cacdac, the president of the fast-growing San Miguel Corp., just sneak when conducting legal introduction involving fellow businessmen.

First, Cacdac and the SMC questioned the Supreme Court competence of a fellow Ilonggo Bienvenido Abaya's bench to have appointed in an incompetent suit against his very own client.

Now, Cacdac and his SMC board have again encountered another lawyer and an Ilonggo opponent whom the Supreme Court has just tagged as having compromised a flagrant conflict.

The Supreme Court last week found and censured Judge Antonio Nuevo for having his three municipalities agree on the Baguio Country Club's golf course lease in favor of Andrew Tan's group, while the judge was favoring a BCC case in his ruling.

While the high tribunal censured Nuevo, the SMC asked by the SC to investigate the disbarment case using the same testimony and documents, inexplicably let go accused of using such lack of evidence.

In other words, while the judge took the fall from the Supreme Court en banc, the lawyer—a former president of the Philippine Bar Association at that—who had accepted his honor into such an embarrassment goes scot-free.

COCKTAILS

Victor C. Agustin

BIR's winning record

CONTRARY to popular impression, the Bureau of Internal Revenue does win tax collection cases.

Out of the 151 BIR-related cases that the Supreme Court decided from January to June, the BIR won 61%. All except one involved income payment disputes.

The most contentious of the six decisions involved Benguet Corp. during the presidency of Emilio Lozada, whose PhP 1 million check guarantee for the outstanding taxes of top Benguet officials was bounced because Lozada ordered treasury to pay for the documentary stamp taxes of other parties.

Despite blowing its agent, LC Diaz and Co., for the checks being born worthless, Benguet was still found liable for the unpaid taxes, which had ballooned to more than PhP 2.1 billion because of interests and penalties. Lozada later went on to become energy secretary of PGMA's father.

Hazardous headlights

THE ADVERTISING Board has rejected the application of Monteo, the men's magazine, to launch its debut issue this year. The Board frowns because the month's nomenclature are said to be "very exciting."

Despite the bosom already having been graphically demonstrated, the editorial, boasting the bosomal ammunition could cause motoring accidents, still rejected the layout.

According to the proponents, the offending billboard is but a blow-up of an upcoming cover page of Monteo, the wonderfully endowed model goes by the name of Angelica Panganiban, a current Binibi endorser.

Money-go-round

● FORMER Deputy Executive Secretary Rafael Perez, who is now with the HUDT Group, is set to assume the presidency of the Makati Medical Center to facelift his clinic, Manuel V. Pangilinan.

● THE ASIAN Wall Street Journal, no relation of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, has ratified at the impeachment "circus" the opposition is again mocking.

"If Manolo politicians could stop squabbling long enough, they'd realize that there are bigger things to worry about," the business paper said in a June 29 red herald.

Heard through the grapevine

THE BOMBARDIERS are expanding their brand-load footer People's Journal (owned by launching a higher-level variant by the last quarter.

(Email: cocktails_pdi@pdinet.net or cocktails_pdi@yahoo.com)

Drillers spending $100M to revive Galoc oilfield dev't

Offshore Palawan project seen yielding first oil in November 2007

THE RISING 30 CRUDE OIL PRICES HAS prompted local and foreign drillers to revive oil exploration activities in the Galoc oilfield in offshore Palawan.

This was reported by Oriental Petroleum and Minerals Corp. chair James L. Go and president Robert Coyiuto Jr. during DPMC's stockholders' meeting last week.

The Galoc oilfield is located at a water depth of 1,000 feet and situated in Block C of Service Contract 14 located west Palawan.

The officials said that the Department of Energy has already approved Phase 1 of the plan of development for Galoc. This includes the drilling of two horizontal wells, the installation of production facilities, and the lease of a floating production storage offloading system or FPSO with a capacity of 450,000 barrels.

The first phase of development is estimated at over $100 million. The recoverable oil reserves are estimated to be in the range of 15 to 20 million barrels.

According to the development plan, drilling of the two Galoc production wells is scheduled to start in June 2007 and will be completed by September. Installation of both topsides and hook-up to the FPSO will be in October and start of production or first oil is anticipated in early November 2007. Initial production is four years at programmed at 21,000 barrels of oil a day.

The Galoc crude is expected to fetch reasonable price of $53 a barrel or better during production. Should results of Phase 1 prove to be encouraging, another one or two production wells will be drilled under Phase 2 of Galoc development.

The Galoc development project is being carried out by a consortium led by Galoc Production Co. (GPC) with Nido Petroleum Philippines Pty. Ltd. (Australia) as paying parties and top up of Philippine-owned participant to carried or non-paying partners. Oriental Petroleum is one of the biggest carried owner of 7.5 percent, while it also its share of the three other oil reservoirs.

Go and Coyiuto Jr. indicated that with the anticipated income from Galoc, Oriental Petroleum would hopefully be in a position to pay its way in future petroleum projects without having to tap the equity of the company's interest. The company may also venture to other energy projects if enough revenue is generated from Galoc.

The presently producing Nido and Matinloc oilfields generated for Oriental Petroleum a gross profit of P55 million from its share of 45 percent interest in the oilfields. Other parties have pending interest to explore for oil in the other blocks of SC-14 and SC-40 in northwest Palawan such as West Linapacan and Galoc. The proposals are now being evaluated.

Just recently, agreement has been reached with an Australian-based oil company to farm into SC-41 South, Tuba Area. Despite drilling results of recent drillings in the area, the South Sulu Sea contract area continues to be prospective, being situated in the same geologic setting as the prolific oil and gas fields of Brunei, Sarawak and East Kalimantan. The deepwater portion will be the object this time of this new round of exploration. Oriental Petroleum presently has an interest of 37 percent in SC-41.

PSE to seek tax perks for realty scheme

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE (PSE) will soon head a proposal to help legislate tax incentives for a special type of fund meant for distribution to real estate investments, PSE president Francis Lim said.

Lim said the PSE would take the lead in filing a proposal for Congress to enact a law allowing real estate investment trusts (REITs) to operate to be country with exports.

An REIT is a security that sells like a stock on an exchange and invests in the entire land investment in real estate directly, either through income-producing pieces of property or mortgages. An REIT can be set up by an existing property firm that may pool its fund, mall or other property assets and then list a specialpurpose company or existing three years up the local bourse. An REIT can also be designed to target small investors.

Similar to those of the countries, Lim said tax incentives that should be made available to Philippine REITs should include exemption or a reduction in capital gains taxes when an REIT buys a property and lower income tax rate.

PSE officials estimated that the country's P600 billion worth of foreclosed assets would be tapped to a important REITs once a law governing their activities shall have been passed.

Lim said REITs that may be listed would be investment and hotel and regional portfolio in the real estate market.

PSE income derived mainly from rent, REIT's main distributes at least 90 percent of their income as dividends to their stockholders. An REIT also needs to offer higher yields.

In Singapore, for instance, its first REIT is the CapitaMall Trust (CMT), a mixture of suburban retail malls and a specialized laboratory technology retail center. Another REIT, the Australia REIT (AREIT) consists of a pool of industrial and business park buildings.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Atlas Mining subsidiary eyes foreign share listing

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

CARAGA COPPER CORP., A SUBSIDIARY OF mining giant Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp., is keen on a possible public offering next year to either the Philippine Stock Exchange or Canada or the London Stock Exchange, atlas chair Alfredo Ramos said.

Ramos stressed that a decision on the planned listing has yet to be finalized. Caraga Copper carries Atlas' copper mining-related interests in Toledo, Cebu.

Ramos explained that the company has not qualified with the Philippine Stock Exchange's profitability requirements as of this time since Carmen Copper has not started mining operations.

Precision of a proposed initial public offering will partly finance the expanding of the Toledo mines in Cebu that Atlas Mining closed in 1994 after it was beset by a recalcitrant, low-grade copper prices and huge debts.

Atlas Mining is keen on reopening its copper mines in Toledo City and in developing its other copper assets through its newly formed unit, Caraga Copper.

Previously controlled by the Ayalas group, which also ran blue chip Dole Filipinas food and food conglomerate San Miguel Corp. and integrated paper manufacturer Paper Industries Corporation of the Philippines, Atlas Mining fell under the control of creditor in 1994.

Alakor Corp., founded by businessman Alfredo Romualdez, now controls a majority stake of the Toledo miners, with Atlas Mining outholding a big chunk of its obligations in addition to equity swap with Alakor and Marsen Mining and Exploration Corp.

Philippine mining has been gaining foreign investor interest after the Supreme Court upheld a Law that allows foreign ownership of mining projects.

MPC drops tollway bid, eyes power sector

Indonesian firm PT Cito Lestari's Guay Peruzzi and PNCC, controls the Skyway. MPC has a 15-percent stake in CRC, could refuse to surrender its stake to control from the Indonesians.

The 9.3-km Skyway runs from the Magallanes toll interchange in Makati City to Buendia, and can be extended by another six to seven kilometers to the Bicutan area.

"We're looking at it now, too. But we don't know yet whether or not we'll go ahead and join the auction. It's one of those things that are dead, but that because you are firmly embedded with government. You don't surrender assets," he said.

"You pay 25 percent and the bid price's, and you save them the 75 percent, and yet you even no-asset to you have got no equity of 25 percent, debt of 75 percent, but others are the assets? It's all goodwill, isn't it?" he added.

Another tollway controversy, he said, was that reconstruction schedule jams. So main source of revenue for the Tramco concessionaire, were covered by five-year regulatory reset periods, which means that rates could not be changed during the first five years.

"What if they don't increase the tariffs or what if they delay? What do you do? You can't restrict all the systems. Otherwise there's no electricity in the country," he said.

Ironically, though, he said MPC still sees Tramco as a good business.

"Even with the added risk that it was a monopoly, then, it could be expected to post further growth, particularly as demand for power also increases.

He said the company continued to assess its options with regard to Tramco, and will it came ongoing discussions with possible technical partners, "to consider a power companies from abroad, from a broad range of nationalities."

MPC has until July 10 to submit its expression of interests to bid for the 25-year Transco concession.

Gov't picks financial adviser for sale of Philpost stake

THE GOVERNMENT has tapped ING Barings Financial Consultancy Group as financial adviser for the privatization of Philippine Postal Corp.

The Privatization Management Office said the financial adviser would determine the best way to privatize the government's 55-percent share in Philpost.

The government fully owns Philpost, but the Postal Service Act of 1992 mandates the sale of 55 percent of its 100-percent interest. The government was not able to privatize the postal service immediately because of its poor financial position.

Officials involved in the government's privatization program, however, said Philpost had already posted a financial turnaround and that it was now attractive to investors.

After suffering from losses in previous years, Philpost registered a net income of P95 million in 2004.

Authorities were earlier considering the sale of the 55-percent stake either in an initial public offering or a direct sale. They initially preferred a direct sale, although the August mode of privatization would be determined based on a study to be conducted by the financial adviser.

The government intends to sell Philpost this year.

The plan to sell Philpost is in line with the government's policy of getting out of businesses that could be best handled by the private sector.

It said in a private investor, Philpost is expected to be able to improve its technological capability

Perks withdrawal seen doing more harm than good

Unfair market realities

BIG-LIBERAL ECONOMICS preaches that markets left to themselves subserve better outcomes than what any government could through its interventions or bureaucracy.

Well, not always. Leaving free market forces unhampered has led the world, and certainly our country into serious perverse outcomes for us to be here examples in our midst.

Great 'unequalizer'

First, because of economic realities, education in this country has failed to be the great equalizer it is supposed to be. Just born in fact served as a wedge that perpetuates and even widens the gap between the rich and poor.

Children of the rich and powerful by effect cannot, or -not fund, get the best quality education from expensive private schools, often abroad. On the other hand, children from poor families are limited to mediocre if not downright sublime and education from the public school system—if they are able to attend school at all.

While doing doctoral studies at Harvard University on a scholarship in the 1980s, I noted how most of the other Filipinos studying in that decade of boom-time had favorable family names in Philippine business and politics. Years later, as a high-level economic official, I often felt an outsider as I moved in circles where people were mostly either relatives or business classmates in elite schools. The donor into that feeling of resentment and political protest are quite obvious indeed, and the situation is perpetuated by the privileged education that those who are already powerful are able to get. Meanwhile, the rest have had to settle for largely inferior education from available schools or through a "diploma mills." And then is generated the oligarchies that hold it over our economic and political lives, and keep our country perennially underdeveloped.

Cheap money

Another tradition in the form of no-no set another "unequalizer" in our economy, giving undue advantage to the rich while handicapping the poor. Large, well-borrowers who can well afford to pay regular market interest rates on their bank loans get the best funding terms (e.g. "negotiated rates" for small) "deals" or sacred interbank loans). However, struggling but viable business small enterprises and small farmers often cannot afford borrowing the most at the highest rates by the banks, under rigid requirements for collateral—if the banks lend to them at all.

The big and rich get the best deals because banks consider them better credit risks. But are they really? Aren't most of the supposedly strong loans in all banking on our books those that ever made by big businesses? And aren't the unconditional programs dealing with small entrepreneurs considerably showing close to 100 percent repayment rates?

The other reason banks have bigger borrowers is their preference for fewer larger transactions over numerous small ones. But the current rush by banks into lucrative consumer credit is actually bringing them into the latter mode. And with universities relaxing the need for face-to-face banking transactions with depositors, more banks and fewer can be lined up to interact to enable borrowers.

Digital divide

The third "inequalizer" is information and communication technology (ICT). On one hand, the rich who can easily afford relying computers and Internet subscriptions even take full advantage of the benefits of ICT and the Internet, and over them as an instrument for extending and increasing more wealth. The poor who are unable to buy even their basic needs, much less computers, on the other hand, are getting left behind by the Information Age. With all the lessons often around, no one thinks that Filipinos have become an "information society" yet. The digitally divide are continue to be very behind our own neighbors in this.

The result is the so-called digital divide, where the gap is growing between the ICT haves and the ICT have-nots. The phenomenon applies both among countries and among people within individual countries, and is a problem that has been recognized early as of concern to the United Nations, among others.

Bridging the gap

There seems really enough to that the school cost to society of providing public education per pupil in the Philippines was most much higher than the corresponding cost per pupil in a private school. And yet the same study showed the average performance of private school pupils to be far superior. Clearly the problem is one of management, and not necessarily of inadequate resources. Public education need not be inferior to private education. We only need to ensure that the public funds going to it are spent well. The regional bidding for textbooks by the DECS in the late 90s provided an example of how to go.

In all these cases, the central market constraints have described above need not be insurmountable.

Comments welcome at cfabito@philonline.edu.

3G ventures not expected to yield profits over medium term, says Pangilinan

By Dindo L. Sasot and Russell N. Domingo

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE Co.'s (PLDT) venture into third-generation (3G) mobile network technology is expected to remain unprofitable over the medium term before it can yield decent returns, according to the firm's chairman.

Despite this, however, the company is firmly committed to the venture and to efforts to find so-called "killer applications" that will help the company develop a critical mass of subscribers to ensure profitability in the long run, Manuel V. Pangilinan said.

"The 3G, we will make money only by the fourth year, at the earliest," PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said in a roundtable discussion with reporters editors and reporters last Friday night.

He said the development of "killer applications," he said the deployment of technology must be fast operation would also depend on how fast cell phone makers could release their handset prices.

"I think we're beginning to see prices come down," he said.

Pangilinan's comments about the prospects of 3G came amid calls from lawmakers for the government to withdraw tax perks granted to mobile phone firms in their investments in 3G—a technology that will allow cell phone users to make video calls, watch television and videos content on their phones, and surf the Internet at broadband speeds.

The Board of Investments's Board of Investments has granted total incentives to Smart Communications Inc. and its rival Globe Telecom Inc.

Pangilinan declined to reveal how much his company would save from the tax breaks, saying it "would not be significant" considering that the venture was not expected to post profit at least in the first three years of its operations.

ABOUT 150,000 of Smart's 21 million subscribers now have 3G-capable handsets, some already using 3G services.

Globe Telecom earlier said it was expecting to save up to P2.3 billion in tax payment spread over a six-year period from the BOI-administered incentive package. The company expects to spend P5.5 billion for its 3G infrastructure and services.

Pangilinan explained that PLDT was expected to benefit from two components of the BOI's incentives package. One is the duty-free importation of capital goods—a benefit that PLDT already enjoys as provisions—while the other is the six-year tax break for income derived from the business.

The PLDT chair said his company would not really be able to benefit from the income tax holidays given the projection that the 3G business would be unprofitable for at least the first three years of its operation. The also means the government will not be able to collect income taxes from the phone firm even if the tax breaks are removed.

Pangilinan said the withdrawal of the perks would just result in another perception problem for the country.

"It would not be changing laws again, which means changing the rules midstream," he said.

Even if the incentives were withdrawn, however, Senate Commission Joker Arroyo said, pushing through with the P33 billion 3G spending although the project implementation and the infrastructure of the investments might take a longer period.

The withdrawal of the perks, he said, would not have pleasant consequences on a much richer investment timetable. This, he added, would translate to more expensive services for end users.

Pangilinan said about 150,000 of Smart's 21 million subscribers now have 3G-capable handsets, some already using 3G services.

The company is trying to pattern its 3G business model after the system used by PLDT shareholder NTT DoCoMo in Japan, where there are 22 million 3G users among the phone firm's 86 million subscribers.

At present, Japan is the only market where 3G has taken off fast. Pangilinan said, the technology was not coming to take off in other countries, including Israel Motors.

Based on its application with the Board of Investments, the company had assumed that 3G subscribers would grow monthly from half a million in the first year of the project implementation to 4.6 million by the sixth year.

In the same period, revenues are expected to grow from P900 million to P20.1 billion, while capital expenditures are seen to reach an average of P6.4 billion a year.

Napocor reducing rate in Visayas

By Abigail L. Ho

CENTRAL PHILIPPINES POWER Corp. in the Visayas grid will enjoy a rate reduction of 13.93 centavos per kilowatt-hour (kWh), following the filing by Napocor's transmission agreement of the same time's contemporaneous rate adjustment mechanism (Tarm) for the grid.

According to Napocor, the reduction will be reflected in the delivered account of customers for P3,671 per kWh in the month's billing.

The lower DAA brings down Napocor's effective selling rate to P5.2058 per kWh from P5.3454 per kWh for the June billing cycle.

The Tarm is the rate imposing the lower rate in the July billing cycle due to 0.26-one-month difference between the billing period of Napocor and those of its power distribution customers.

Under the automatic generation rate adjustment (Agar), power distributors can recover their generation-related costs into prior approval from the ERC. This means that they can automatically pass on these savings in their new billing cycle.

But the Aff 13.96-centavos-per-kWh savings will only be passed on to end-users if a distribution utility or electric cooperative is supplied by the entire supply requirement from Napocor.

Only a portion of the savings will be reflected in the end-users' monthly bills of their power distributors because of the requirement from another supplier.

Napocor attributed its lower DAA to improved economic dispatch of power plants as well as increased energy sales.

The approved new Tarm DAA of 52.00 centavos per kWh replaced the state firm's 2001 Grass Deal of 45.93 centavos per kWh beginning in the August billing cycle, or from May 26 to June 25.

This will continue for the next five months or until a new Grass DAA is approved by the ERC.

Under the ERC-approved implementing rules for the Tarm and the incremental currency exchange rate adjustment, the balance of the DAA to Napocor's monthly billings is its customers will benefit from either recover or refund. Affected accounts will range from the unique, purchased power and foreign currency exchange rate fluctuations on a quarterly basis via DAA applications.

SGS sees 40% sales growth

SGS PHILIPPINES INC., THE PHILIPPINE affiliate of the Geneva-based Societe Generale de Surveillance (SGS) Group, said it sees expecting a 40-percent growth in sales this year as it launched its new $2 million-worth of laboratory facilities in the country.

SGS Philippines recently opened a consultant testing services laboratories in Makati City and Cebu City. It also has operations in the Subic Bay Freeport.

In a recent press conference, SGS Philippines managing director Renato Capacion Bradbury said the company "is an affirmation of our confidence in and support for Philippine business."

Bradbury said that based on company projections, the new's monthly sales might hit P35-P40 million from an average of about P30 million a month last year.

He said the company is also seeing bright prospects in the minerals and mining, and the consumer sectors.

SGS also has an agreement for onsite laboratory testing projects under build-operate-transfer schemes.

SGS Phils., Inc., which has been in the country since 1949, recently set up a laboratory in Rizal Province, after it was tapped by the Lafayette Group to establish testing facility and conduct required assessment on the Pagbilao coal-fired project. SGS spent P20 million to open each testing center in the area.

The Subic center is the first for Quezon Power Philippines.

Revenues from onsite services accounts for about 30-to-40 percent of SGS' business in the country, she said.

"Our investment in the new laboratories in the Philippines is an expression for the growing demand for such services from local industries that seek to conform with international standards and become globally competitive," she said.

Aside from SGS Phils., SGS also operates the ISO 9001 HOTAIR LIL and Orlando Centre also in Makati. The regional hub, which operates 24/7, provides export generation such as trade assurance services for SGS' global network's regional and international clients. All told, SGS' operations in the Philippines employs about 800 people.

Domestic liquidity expands by 12.7%

By Doris C. Dumlao

DEMAND FOR MONEY (PESO-denominated liquidity) expanded year-on-year by 12.7 percent in April, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas reported.

Last May's domestic liquidity also known as m3, grew 3.7 percent on a month-on-month basis.

The improvement in the BSP's net international reserves, which were brought about by reduced foreign liabilities and the accumulation of foreign assets, helped sustain the expansion in domestic liquidity," the BSP said.

The BSP explained that the increase in the banks' net foreign asset position, which was mainly due to a reduction in their foreign liabilities, also contributed to the liquidity growth.

"The growth in credits to the public sector, particularly to LGUs, in the form of loans and investments also helped expand domestic liquidity," it noted.

Domestic liquidity is an indication of the total supply of money in an economy. It includes money in circulation, demand deposits, money market funds and short-term repurchase agreements.

The foreign assets of the monetary system are mainly in the form of investments in foreign currency-denominated securities of the banks and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. In this regard, the inclusion of dollar—such as investments from overseas Filipino workers which are held in the banking system—are also a big boost to the net foreign assets position.

An expansion in net domestic credits depends on the student's borrowing appetite.

"The BSP will continue to closely monitor the level of domestic liquidity to ensure that it will remain consistent with the BSP's price stability objective," central bank officials said.

"The overall monetary policy stance will remain geared toward ensuring that all emerging risks to inflation and inflation expectations are addressed in a timely and appropriate manner. "Monetary authorities will continue to provide an appropriate environment that will promote currency stability and help facilitate the real for Filipino producers to counteract prices," the central bank said.

Gov't moves to ease burden of exporters

Finance, DTI eye removal of fees

By Michelle V. Rivera

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO TEVES and the Department of Finance are somewhat unanimous in backing the removal of export fees imposed on exporters to help develop the export industry.

Teves said a technical working group—composed of the DOF, the Department of Trade and Industry and the National Tax Research Center (NTRC)—would meet and decide soon on the proposed withdrawal of fees, but said the senators wanted to have the approval of the proposal, he said.

"We can get rid of these fees. The impact on government revenue would not be significant...but we think it would be a big help to exporters," Teves told reporters at the sidelines of the 84th anniversary celebration of Lila Limpanich Co. held in Makati City last week.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the removal of the export fees would result in some P30-million to P40-million loss in government revenue.

While importers are charged duties on shipments brought into the country, exporters are required to pay several fees, including those charged for inspection and clearance, before they can ship out their products.

Jennifer Lee of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the support of the DOF on the proposed lifting of export fees was a welcome development. Besides lowering the cost of doing business for exporters, Lee said the proposal would help simplify the export procedures.

The lifting of export fees would primarily benefit small players in the export industry, as many big exporters, particularly those located in economic zones, are already exempted from such fees.

Teves said measures that could help businesses but would not significantly hurt government revenues were among the things that the DOF would not hesitate to support.

Yehey prepares for IPO in 2007

PHILIPPINE SEARCH ENGINE YEHEY.COM IS preparing for a possible initial public offering next year through aggressive efforts to return to profit, officials said.

Yehey president Donald Storck Lim said Yehey's sales had increased by 20 percent in the first five months this year, boosted by online advertisements from large chains in the country. He said he was expecting Yehey to be "back in the black" by next year.

Jennings Ortiz, Yehey's parent firm, said in a statement that it was continuing Yehey as the primary Filipino portal for online advertisements and e-commerce payment deals.

Yehey recently received 322.9 million in cash from Mesaage for the portal's expansion plans.

Yehey plans to transform itself into a full-scale online marketing solutions provider from being an online advertising medium.

Yehey was founded in 1996 by college friends as a search engine. The company's brand and license is online advertising. Blake Ivers L. Zamoras

GOINGS-ON

La Salle GSB program for artists bags award

THE DE LA SALLE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS Graduate School of Business was recently named one of the top winners in the Participatory Poverty Project Grant competition sponsored by The World Bank and other funding agencies. Participatory Poverty is the country's largest and most unique series of innovative ideas for promoting development and equity.

Out of more than 500 entries, DLSPS GSB's arts, Culture Cooperative for Rural Artists, was chosen as one of the six recipients of the project grant given by the World Bank. The entry is a partnership between the DLSPS GSB and the Municipality of Santa Maria (Agno), an organization of 23 rural artists headed by Santa Maria Mayor Aguila Agoo serves as a pilot group for cultural cooperatives. However, the country's

The concept of cultural cooperatives recognizes the value of helping talented artists help one another to form a sustainable way to economic empowerment.

Culture Cooperatives for Rural Artists ultimately hoped "instilled success in financial resources and markets.

Model companies

VICTORIA COURT bagged three major awards in the Department of Trade and Industry's Pro-Active Programs Achievement Award Awards for Model Companies (MAC).

The awards project that this company, headquartered itself as a premiere three-in hotel in the country.

The Search for Model Companies is an annual event for outstanding companies that have demonstrated innovations in the field of employee-employer relations, quality of service and productivity, and customer relations. Victoria Court won the Labor-Management Relations award. Panda Whitecross Community Relations award, and the Quality and Productivity award. Other winners are Cosmig Pharmaceutical, Universal Robina Corp. and Glaxo /

SSS proposes changes in computing members' contributions

By Michelle V. Ramos

THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) plans to raise the maximum salary base for computing the required monthly contributions from members and their employers to the pension fund.

SSS President and Chief Executive Officer Conrado dela Paz said the proposal was meant to ensure stability of the fund and to increase benefits for members.

"There are several salary bases used in computing the required contributions to the fund. The required amount of contributions stands at 9.4 percent of the salary base applicable to a member.

Currently, the maximum salary base is P15,000. This means employees who earn P15,000 a month, or any amount beyond that, should have a monthly contribution to the SSS equivalent to 9.4 percent of P15,000.

Of the 9.4 percent required contribution, two-thirds is shouldered by the employee while the remaining one-third is supplied by the employer covered by the social security.

Raising the maximum salary base would mean an increase in the required contributions either by the employee alone, or both the employers and the employees. But initially, the SSS is looking at asking employers to fully shoulder the proposed increase.

"We have to make people appreciate the need to increase contributions because this will have an impact on future benefits," he La Paz told reporters in the sidelines of the 61st anniversary celebration of ineffing Jose Ichiro & Co. held in Makati City last week.

Dr. La Paz said increasing the maximum salary base was a friendlier alternative proposed to the original suggestion of increasing the required percentage contributions of 9.4 percent.

He said the first proposal was deemed burdensome both by employers and employees.

The SSS was earlier looking at raising the required percentage contribution to 11 percent, and then eventually to 22 percent, to comply with the suggestions of an actuarial study.

The study said contributions should be raised to 22 percent to make the SSS pension fund viable.

But Dr. La Paz said that President Macapagal-Arroyo still has not decided whether to approve the proposal, which is presented to be highly unpopular.

The SSS chief said, however, that based on initial talks between the SSS and the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), the business group did not oppose the proposed hike in the maximum salary base.

He said that the PCCI found the proposal more acceptable than the original, although she stressed that the business group has not to relate its final position on the matter.

The SSS earlier announced that, under a status-quo scenario, the life of its fund would last until 2031.

Europe, Japan threaten emerging markets

Expected increase of key rates seen to be a thorn in RP's side

By Doris C. Dumlao

CONCERNS OVER FURTHER money tightening in the United States may have tipped down investor bias from members and their employers to the pension fund.

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FEEDING TIME
Mang Anji, leader of the Calang-calan Seaweed Growers Association in Malusa, Bunkan, feeds 150 humpback groupers (bass) provided under USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program. Anji is a former member of the Moro National Liberation Front. He and other members of the association underwent training in high value fish aquaculture. A live humpback grouper weighing a kilo can go for as much as P1,200. The Mindanao Economic Development Council oversees the implementation of the GEM Program in the region.

How increase in First World interest rates affects RP

WHEN UNCLE SAM SNEEZES, Juan dela Cruz catches a cold. This best explains why the peso—which surged to a three-and-a-half-year peak of 50.88:$1 in early March—recently lost its gains against the US dollar.

The Philippines, like other Asian emerging markets badly hit by the currency fallout in 1997, cannot help but feel the pinch of rising interest rates in the First World.

Weighed down over the last two months by investors anticipating the US Federal Reserve would continue its two-year monetary tightening campaign, the peso did look to reboot it was as red 2005.

The higher bond yield in the US, as influenced by the series of increases in the US Fed's overnight rates from 1 to 5.25 percent, has lured more global investors built to US dollar assets, drawing up points away from emerging markets like the Philippines.

For its part, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' overnight borrowing rate has been kept steady at 7.5 percent since October last year, as a favorable outlook on domestic inflation reduces the need to hike the US Fed's rate.

"The benign inflation outlook has largely allowed the BSP to keep the policy rates, but we do think interest rate risk which has fuelled global peace and rising global interest rates," said BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo. "At the moment, that high oil prices may triggering second round effects and higher inflation expectations, the market can expect decisive action from the BSP."

Will Oswald, JP Morgan head for emerging markets quantitative strategy, said the compared to emerging market regions in central Europe and Latin America, Asia was the most closely tied to the behavior of US interest rates.

"It's partly because of trade," the London-based Oswald told reporters. "Asia has the largest amount of trade with the US.

"If you look at Asia, interest rates are much lower than the US, as the sensitivity [of tightening] to be much higher in Asia."

But economic transport are hoping that the current shift in market appetite away from emerging markets—which had prompted Philippine issuers like state-owned Development Bank of the Philippines and land bank of the Philippines to short dollars bond offerings—would be temporary and that Philippine assets would become attractive in the long run.

"It may be more attractive now for capital to move to the US, but I'm hoping the market will normalize," Philippine National Bank Senior Vice Pres. Ramon Monzon, the Philippines would be among the countries [investors would strongly] consider if they decide to move back their capital to emerging markets."

Doris C. Dumlao

Authorities may decide to transfer UITF regulation from BSP to SEC

THE FUROR ON UNIT INVESTment trust funds (UITFs) may have died down, but one question keeps popping up: Should the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas continue regulating the pooled funds, or should this responsibility be turned over to the Securities and Exchange Commission?

BSP Deputy Governor for bank supervision and examination Nestor Espenilla Jr. said the possible transfer of UITF regulation to the SEC was among the items being discussed under the proposed Revised Investment Companies Act (RICA).

"We need to study that [issue] carefully," Espenilla said. "UITF is a trust, and UITF is placed under the responsibility of the banking industry. We may be open to [the transfer], but it may not be legally possible. Even if it's legally possible, we'll have to study whether it's a wise policy."

According to Mike Ferrer, BSP bureau of treasury management regional manager for South Asia, "in other markets, the lines between banking and asset management are more defined."

"In some cases, banks own assets management companies, whereas here, it's much more closely linked," Ferrer added.

Asked whether such a transfer was an option, SEC chair Fe Barin replied that "UITFs are covered by a BSP circular."

"[But the possible regulation by the SEC] is something to look at," Barin added, noting that while UITFs and mutual funds may look the same, they were technically different.

Espenilla said that there are no UITFs in the US. In the United States, he said, what they have are mostly mutual funds.

Espenilla said that the regulatory framework there would not be replicated here.

UITFs are pooled trust funds is acceptable currencies operated by a trust entity and made available by participations.

The BSP ordered the placement of the common trust funds in favor of the UITFs and exempted these from reserve requirements as they are independent from the bank, groups.

Most the circular on UITF was being drafted, industry sources said the SEC chair at that time began to question why it was the BSP that should regulate the products.

Peters, who is based in Hong Kong, oversees the group's global fixed management industry is growing faster than bank deposits, with the worldwide average against deposits now having 75 percent.

In the US, since 1994, mutual funds and unit trusts have overgrown the banking system's deposits (with the ratio) now at 150 percent," Peters said.

The BSP executive said the fund management industry in the Philippines, the oldest in the world, could provide a bit of a roadmap of what could happen.

While the aftermath of the May 2006 UITF meltdown seemed bleak, Peters said that could prove to be a "net positive" in the sense that it increased awareness on what fund products, particularly the risks and returns on these products.

Dirk Hellwig said, Peters said, a more liberal investment policy could help UITFs, particularly if the restrictions on the portion allowed to be invested abroad were liberalized, as this would diversify risks and open up opportunity for greater returns.

At the same time, he said the UITF industry would "benefit if banks were allowed to engage in securities borrowing and lending or short-selling, allowing them to sell securities which they do not yet have.

Peters said the presence of such hedging tools would temper volatility in the local financial markets as it would reduce arrest selldown.

Philippine assets held in CITIs and UITFs combined are estimated at only P330 billion or 12 percent of total bank deposits, significantly lower than Singapore's 47 percent, Malaysia's 28 percent, Hong Kong's 68 percent and even Thailand's 13 percent.

"The figures suggest strong growth potentials as investment funds will escalate in importance ... in the years to come," Peters said.

Doris C. Dumlao

Chicken exporters seen to cash in on Japan trade

CASHING IN ON JAPAN'S PEAK demand for the period, Philippine poultry exporters have reserved shipments to that country with the delivery of 70 metric tons, an industry official said.

General of the deadly avian flu, Philippine poultry exporters had by agribusiness firm San Miguel Foods Inc. have shipped to Japan a 20-cubic foot container van filled with frozen deboned chicken fillet and other choice cuts, according to Philippine Poultry Exporters Board Chair Rubyn Bernad.

"For the next three months, there is a design in demand in Japan and we hope to take advantage of this opportunity," Bernad told the Inquirer.

He said other accredited meat-packers companies from the Philippine Association of Broiler Integrators (PABI), like RFM Food Foods Corp., Swan Agro Ventures Inc., Universal Robina Corp. and Vitarich Corp., are bullish on their export prospects in Japan, which requires 100,000 metric tons of chicken a year.

After learning that Philippine poultry is free of the AVIAN—the lethal avian flu strain—Japan's Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry gave the go-signal for Philippine companies to export chicken products.

Local companies are now upgrading their facilities to cope with the stringent Hygiene demands in the coming years, Bernad said.

Philippine poultry exporters are now seeking similar accreditations from Hong Kong and South Korean authorities.

Bernad also said that local companies may now export to Middle Eastern countries as companies are working on their Halal accreditation. Christina A. Gayticon

Study: Retirees get better deals here than in other parts of Asia

By Christina A. Gayticon

PHILIPPINE COMPANIES HAVE THE highest expatriate employment rate anywhere to retire than in other firms elsewhere in Asia, according to a recent study conducted by Watson Wyatt Worldwide.

Simeon Wyatt, a global human capital and financial management consulting services firm, recently conducted a survey involving 2,332 companies in 11 countries, and found that Filipino companies have provided well for the pensioned employees.

Philippine firms voluntary provided for the retirement benefits of its employees, according to Bob Charles, Watson Wyatt data Southeast regional head for retirement benefits practice.

"Out of the 227 companies from top 2,000 corporations surveyed in the Philippines, about 60 percent, or 136 companies, provided supplementary retirement benefits to employees, compared to the 10 to 20 percent of companies found in other Asian countries including China, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia," Charles said in an interview.

He pointed out that those surveyed belong to large local companies with a mix of local and foreign ownership and with at least 100 full-time employees.

"These companies saw that part of their catch in retaining high performing employees is to have a very attractive retirement and health benefits package for the employees and their families," Charles said.

According to the survey, Filipino workers aged 50 and above comprise roughly 13.8 percent of the total population. The number of workers in this age range is expected to grow to 21 percent by 2030, and to 30 percent by 2050. In contrast, the same age group in Japan already comprises 40 percent of its general population, and is seen to expand to 51 percent by 2050.

Charles explained that this presents better opportunities for skilled Filipino workers, which are growing by an annual average of 28 percent.

Inequalities still exist, United Nations says

GENEVA — A SECRET STUDY of Nations report said that globalization has failed to close glaring inequalities between rich and poor nations and called for developing countries to be given more space to build up their national economies.

The UN's "2006 World Economic and Social Survey" said that inequalities in the global system "are at odds with the economic wisdom requiring how income differentials among countries change over time in a more integrated world economy".

Only a small number of nations have been able to make up the chasm that separated them from wealthy economies despite a belief in the 1950s and 1960s that "giving more space to the global market would lead to a closing of the income gap", it added.

"This did not happen... despite the fact that countries increased the openness of their trade and financial systems to the global market," the report by the UN's department of economic and social affairs underlined.

It argued that poorer countries need to be given more opportunity to diversify their commodity-based economies to make them less vulnerable to fluctuations in world prices and shocks in international financial markets.

"Success in exports is hardly associated with what you export, but how much you export," UN Undersecretary General Jose Antonio Ocampo told journalists.

"To move off ecliffgrass such as those felt in the developing world in 1996-1998 and 2004-2005, countries should adopt policies adapted to their national situations, breaking free of lobotomy approaches to policy-making," he said.

The developing countries should be allowed to implement export measures to nurture export industries, and be granted more special and differential treatment under World Trade Organization agreements, the report said.

Support measures for exports are essentially banned under the WTO. AFP

WTO flirts with crisis as trading powers refuse to compromise

Agriculture remains key stumbling block

DEMONSTRATORS dressing US President George Bush (C), British Prime Tony Blair (2nd L), German Chancellor Angela Merkel (R), French President Jacques Chirac (2nd R), and Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Zapatero (L) protest in Geneva, in front of the World Trade Organization. Ministers from around 149 key WTO governments will meet for four days of intensive talks. AFP

GENEVA — TRADING POWERS FIRED FLIPPING with a crisis-laden effort to kick negotiations at the WTO on a ground-zero for global trade talks hurtled into the weekend without any safe willingness giveaway.

India's Minister of Commerce, Kamal Nath, admitted late in the night that he was ready to fly home Saturday after the G6 group of influential trading powers failed to make progress at World Trade Organization headquarters in Geneva.

"There will be no more 60 meeting," said Nath, a key player in the talks, effectively ruling out more immediate bids to bridge the gaps between the 149 countries represented at trade and industrial goods.

"We need movement that we have not been able to move. But there remains many gaps and that there is no time," he added.

A compromise among the 60 members is regarded as the key to resolving the area that year-old deadlock, because the 6 diverse economies account for the bulk of disputes in the talks on cutting down barriers to trade by the end of the year.

"The green room will decide what the process will be" after the failure, said Nath, referring to an informal gathering on Saturday of 20 representatives of delegations from the 149-WTO members.

WTO chief Pascal Lamy has tried to coax them individually to give ground to develop. ing and rich countries accused each other of trying to hijack the elusive Doha Round of multilateral trade talks.

Lamy had on the team's more morning, saying governments could no longer afford to chalk

up

ional after missing deadlines in recent years.

Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim gave a gloomy assessment of the chances of reaching a deal this weekend, saying the ministerial is "a cutting cudwhiter and tough".

Amorim, one of the key figures with India in the G20 group of emerging and developing nations, acknowledged that a compromise looming.

But he pointed out that the situation was not unfavorable at the WTO and that ministers helped appoint called out of deadlock.

Brazil, the European Union opposed to be inch closer to meeting the demands of Brazil and India on agriculture.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said Brussels was ready to go beyond its existing offer of a 46 percent cut in agricultural tariffs by meeting down to the 54 percent cut proposed by the G20.

But EU negotiators reiterated that other WTO members must also do something to move.

The EU said the United States was demanding deeper cuts in customs duties on imported industrial goods by developing economies.

The spotlight was also being turned on the United States to offer deeper cuts in subsidies for its farmers.

The goal of the Doha Round of trade talks, which was launched in the Qatari capital in 2001, is to slay down trade barriers and help developing economies accelerate economic growth.

Representatives were significantly nearer to the talk in 2004, but the end-date was later pushed back to December 2006. AFP

FOREIGN BRIEFS

Prosecutors want Lay, Skilling to pay $183M

HOUSTON — FEDERAL PROSECUTORS want Enron corp. founder Kenneth Lay and former Chief Executive Jeffrey Skilling to forfeit more than $183 million in higher than convictions for perpetrating one of the biggest corporate frauds in US history.

In a court filing Friday, the prosecutors asked US District Judge Sim Lake to order the newly convicted felons to forfeit that amount "representative of the fraud committed," which includes bonuses, Skilling's gains from stock sales, and Lay's sale of hundreds of thousands of shares in the year of 2001, on a of $1.03 million.

The government initially intended to seek about $2 billion in Skilling's cash and property that is connected to sums stolen in sales initiated in February 2004, including about $1.5 million. Skilling's sentencing is slated for October.

Lay, 64, and Skilling, 52, were convicted on charges including fraudulent conspiracy by repeatedly lying about Enron's financial strength in the months before the company plummeted into bankruptcy protection in December 2001. AP

US consumer spending slows in May, gov't says

WASHINGTON — CONSUMER SPENDING slowed sharply in May as rising gasoline prices left less money with less money for other items, the government reported Friday.

The Commerce Department said that spending rose by just 0.4 percent last month after a 0.7 percent gain in April. Income growth also slowed to an increase of just 0.4 percent last month, reflecting weaker job growth.

Economists had expected consumer and consumer spending growth but further softened that the economy slowed sharply in the spring as Americans were battered by rising gasoline prices, higher interest rates and a cooling housing market.

The government also reported Friday that the overall economy slowed to an annual rate of 5.6 percent in the January-March quarter, the fastest pace in 25 years, leaving analysts growth has slowed to a pace half that around to the end of April. June quarter reflecting a drain slowdown in consumer spending, which accounts for two-thirds of total economic activity. AP

Mittal sets sights on China

LONDON — STEEL TYCOON LAKSHMI MITTAL announced plans to acquire rival Arcelor, but he might not so further acquisitions is emerging markets, such as China and India, its Chairman said on Friday.

Mittal said he would not declare anything specific, but added that he was keen to see Mittal Steel's production in emerging markets rise from 20 percent to 30 percent of total production.

The Mittal-Arcelor deal has been one of the most controversial takeovers in recent months. Arcelor is based in Luxembourg but previously grew through years of deals including steel UK coil.

Mittal, 56, and one of the world's few remaining steel tycoons of significant size, said he would be "reluctant" to see Arcelor's management and spin control-Mittal assets. "I will also pass the baton to other senior executives to take this next step of consolidation seriously," he said. Reuters

A WOMAN walks past an electronic board displaying a rise in the Nikkei industry-classified share average in Tokyo. The Nikkei jumped 2.34 percent on Friday to mark its highest close since June 5 on Friday as reported, such as Toyota Motor, gained on easing fears that the US economy may take cyclical dip by nearing record, easing concern of a slowdown in the world's largest economy. AFP

Oil nears $74

LONDON — OIL ROSE TO NEARLY $74 a BARrel on Friday, within sight of record highs, on a positive outlook for oil demand and economic growth to top economies the United States.

American drivers are expected to take to the roads in record numbers over the US July 4 holiday weekend, despite high fuel prices. The US economy grew at the fastest rate in 2-1/2 years in the first quarter.

"All the growth numbers have been coming through stronger than expected," said Gene Mcnally, an oil analyst at Barclays Capital. US crude rose 48 cents higher at $73.92 a barrel after closing only ahead of Independence Day holiday.

Metals and other commodities also rallied as investors from over interest rate rises and a possible weakening of the US economy worried. Copper jumped almost 4 percent to a record and gold rose.

"The economy continues to be the oil capital markets, more than the Fed could't put the economy into recession," said John Brady of ABN AMRO in New York.

US crude has risen from $20 in January 2002 and hit a record high of $75.35 in April as rising demand restricted supplies and investment poured into commodity markets.

Prices were driving strength Friday from the continued closure of a key shipping channel in Louisiana, which has limited output in three refineries as a result of peak summer demand.

Output limits supply concerns caused by recent refinery glitches, US inventories of gasoline fell by 1.1 million barrels last week, while crude stocks declined 3.4 million barrels.

Fuel's rise with the hikes over its nuclear work, which leaders fear could cut supplies from the world's fourth-largest oil exporter, has also supported prices this year.

The Group of Eight nations talked current tensions, but said they would not make immediate response" rare tools in an offer by major powers over its nuclear plans. Tehran said that was unlikely. Reuters

Central banks see further credit tightening

Financial markets volatile, analysts say

FRANKFURT — SOME U.S. SOFTLY SIGNS to be the message that central bankers are delivering on the pattern of global credit tightening that has ahead.

Financial markets are volatile and the cheap money that dazzled around. The global economy after several years of very low interest rates is drying up fast.

Investors and policymakers alike are growing increasingly uncertain about a possible global economic slowdown and whether it can dampen worsening inflationary pressures.

The matter be a considerable mix. One wrong step by central bankers could upset an exceptional period of global expansion.

"I compare it to crossing the river — feeling your way from rock to rock. If the economic adviser at the bank for international settlements, said after meetings with central bankers from around the world last weekend. "You have to do it very, very carefully."

The worry is that if central banks crank up interest rates too rapidly, it will prompt investors accustomed to cheap funding to rush for the exits all at once and cause major financial disruptions.

So far, recent modest sell-offs have been welcomed by central bankers as a necessary re-pricing of risk, but they know it could turn disorderly.

Little wonder that the Federal Reserve did global countries to pause. Thursday when it raised US rates by the 17th straight policy meeting and signaled that the increase is begun two years ago may be near normal.

Similarly the European Central Bank, while it has left no doubt that could withdrawing cash countries the year, has stuck to a gradual pace.

ECB leaders angled for pausing for latest increase but President Jean-Claude Trichet has given no hint so far that he wants to ease the tempo.

The Bank of Japan is poised to start ending interest rates, possibly next month but it too has shown no inclination to rush.

Money still cheap

But so-called period of near-zero interest rates and bank lightening has led to global liquidity declining at its fastest rate in 10 years.

Goldman Sachs calculates that average three-month interest rates in eight major economies have risen 30 basis points over the last quarter, a pace not seen since a 40 basis point rise in mid-2000.

Bt three-month rates since months may below levels seen in expensive countries. They average 2.8 percent today, which sits the midpoint of the 2.3-4.0 percent range during the period of easing from late 2000 to mid-2003, Goldman said.

This would suggest that some more rate tightening remains in store, Morgan Stanley economists Stephen Jen said.

The currency strategist Stephen Jen said in a research note that real short-term rates today are around 1.5 percent, while for the 1990s they averaged 2 percent.

Both investment houses warn that another financing could disrupt global investment patterns.

Recent market volatility can be linked to withdrawal of liquidity Two months after the ECB ended existing rates in December, the high-yielding currencies of Iceland and New Zealand were hammered.

Two months after the Bank of Japan in Bluchanded its quantitative easing policy — under which it flooded the banking system with cash to combat deflation — major stock indices, gold and other commodities and some emerging markets were hit.

Prospects this month that the Fed could push its key rate as high as 6 percent — most recently by its statement on Thursday — sounded with a dual sense of selling which has hit emerging markets such as Turkey, South Africa and some to several Europe.

The amount of money that can shift when lending rates and risk appetite change is huge.

For instance, Jen estimates that $1 trillion is under management totaled $10.6 trillion at the end of the first quarter and it may be invested in more assorted ways.

That far outstrips the $2.7 trillion in Asian central bank foreign exchange reserves, which has caused so much concern in recent years over the possibility that a sudden unwinding of dollar holdings would upset the global economy.

Central banks have been split internally on controlling inflation, not preventing market losses, in line with their mandates. But they are also keeping an eye on markets in deciding the pace and size of future rate moves.

It was a template Bullocks also in 1994 that sparked a bond market crash, followed by a Mexican peso debacle. A round of several bank tightening also provoked the Asian currency crisis four years later. Central banks don't want to go there again.

Malacañang orders probe of power sale program

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG HAS ORDERED A probe of the One-Day Power Sale program following complaints by industry groups that the "electricity sale" of the National Power Corporation and Manila Electric Co. have not only inconvenienced local manufacturers, but padded their contract tariff.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told the business that he had ordered energy officials to address complaints by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) that the suspension of the DSPP on several occasions has had adverse repercussions on power-intensive industries.

As mentioned by the Energy Regulatory Board, the DSPP scheme allows the discounted sale of NPC's unused capacity to self-generating customers, or companies which have their own power plants.

Under the scheme, Meralco handles the purchase of Napocor's surplus capacity for distribution to big customers within its franchise area, which includes Metro Manila.

However, some industries have complained that abrupt cancellation of the DSPP had forced them to run their power plants without adequate preparation.

Others, DSPP customers unable to operate their generator sets were slapped with additional high demand charges that they claimed were unfair.

In an interview, Napocor president Cyril del Callar said the fate of DSPP depends on the ERB, especially with the recent launching of the Wholesale Electricity Spot Market (WESM), where big power users can now buy their electricity at market-driven prices.

While WESM is now in place, industries are still waiting for clearer guidelines, stressing that while they can source their electricity directly from big power producers, they are still at the mercy of Meralco, which controls the transmission lines in its huge franchise area.

Recalling PEDIM, they also complained that NPC and Meralco seem to be dragging their feet with regards the restoration of DSPP.

Earlier, PCCI president Donald Dee said that inaction on DSPP means discounts to ratepayers, its suspension would impact negatively on power-intensive industries, like cement and steel plants.

"I hope they (NPC and Meralco) would be able to immediately communicate with industries about planned suspensions. They should also be able to say when the DSPP can be implemented again," Dee added.

Business groups claimed that the DSPP cancellations have happened and Meralco through increased transmission charges because users were charged more for their unplanned high electricity demand. Industry estimates showed that that the cost of DSPP cancellations exceed P320 million a day.

PCCI, FPI complain of increased costs borne by industries

RP questions Malaysia auto policy

By Roland W. Dorotan

THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have opposed the non-tariff barriers to vehicle imports imposed by Malaysia, on grounds that this runs counter to efforts to trend free trade within the region.

According to officials, Kuala Lumpur was still protecting Malaysia's national cars and other domestic products contrary to rules of the Asean Free Trade Agreement and World Trade Organization law.

They said such barriers were laid out in a National Auto Policy that was promulgated last March, despite Asean members having agreed to reduce tariffs on imported completely built vehicles to 5 percent from 20 percent.

The policy requires, for instance, the issuance of approval/permits prior to importation.

Malaysia also says that it will only allow the entry of the equivalent of a maximum 14 percent of Malaysia's vehicle production, not counting parts of cars, trucks and buses.

Acting Director at the unit of customs valuation on imports of completely built units, instead of using the valuation methods provided for in the WTO's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Finally, the sources said Malaysia's Industrial Adjustment Fund serves to direct vehicle importation despite tariff reduction under AFTA.

With the bid the Malaysian government provides support by way of excise tax credits on its local industry based on higher levels of local content.

Government support under IAF also provides relatively greater help to large-scale assemblers and engineers, sources said.

They said these barriers primarily hinder shipments from Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand as these make the Malaysian market large closed to Asean imports.

With some 546,000 units sold in 2005, Malaysia is the region's second largest auto market and is home to locally assembled vehicles like Proton and Perodua.

BICE is at the center of the economy of Mayon, Hagar, where one can have a good view of the world famous rice terraces.

ILOCOS NORTE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

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General Manager

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of 400/69 Power Supply and Microprocessor

(Reference No.: PBAC2006-03-2073)

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President

PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Quantity	Nomenclature	Specification	Approved Budget for Contract
100 pieces	Letter (E) paper	PEBAA-BEC Resolution No. Letter (E) paper	Php 1,000,000.00
774 pieces	Letter (E) paper	PEBAA-BEC Resolution No. Letter (E) paper	Php 20,274,000.00

Casiño's fantasy

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Bienvenido C. Gaviola

TEDDY CASIÑO, PARTY-LIST REPresentative of Bayan Muna, and my friend's communist (cogs, progressive), flashed his hostile claws on a TV talk show the other day.

He talked about the President's decision to spend P1 billion for the Armed Forces to open a final offensive against the NPA. He said that it would be better to spend the money to wipe out injustice, inequality and poverty, which are the root causes of the NPA rebellion.

If Casiño presupposes the equality of a communist society where everybody is equally hungry, thanks, but no thanks. If he means the equality of a centrally managed economy, he can have it.

If he refers to the equality of the 80% revolutionary tax system where everything that moves or grows in the the Hung Iantsu is taxed 10 percent at market value, I prefer the complicated tax structure of the internal revenue code.

And I would rather go through a tax audit by a BIR examiner than tangle with an NPA tax'on'extortionist gang.

A friend of mine claim that in Albay, the usual tariff rebates to guys with 10 years of hard service to the NPA. But he gladly shares the going rate of one-third of whatever any hard-working reaper, NPA or not, brings in. Now, that is equality.

I agree that there is a lot of injustices around. I have said more than once that we have the best justice system—that money can buy. But is Casiño proposing to improve our justice system, flawed as it may be, with the NPA's kangaroo courts? Does he want to install a system of police, too?

As to the problem of poverty, the Ho Chung Iantsu unveiled by the NPA gained in object poverty precisely because the NPA bleeds the poor folks half to death. Not only that, no investor would like to invest a dot in areas terrorized by the NPA.

My friend Amy dozed down his small sari-sari store when the NPA told him to shell out P4,000 every month in fund revolution-ary tax (It was really an excise tax).

There are dozens of countries in the Third World much poorer than the Philippines. These countries do not have a terrorist network like the NPA. Why so? Maybe because we do not massacre communists by the hundreds of thousands, as Suharto did in Indonesia.

Gov't picks financial ...

From page B1

and offer additional services, other than the regular mail delivery.

The sale of state assets is also aimed at raising additional revenue for the government.

The government had targeted to raise P500 million from privatization this year. This target was increased to P1 billion. Michelle V. Rivera

Naga City discovers Google Earth

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN NAGA CITY have made public its geographic information system (GIS) to allow Google Earth enthusiasts to join around with the information, PhGT can learned.

Google Earth is free software application that allows people to zoom in on satellite photos of the world. People can literally view any country in the world using this nifty computer program.

The Philippine Skidmore blog (http://www.manilaskidmore.blogspot.com/) said the Naga City government has challenged people to create Google Earth maps out of the GIS information.

Filipino journalist Ruby Alampay and a former Metro-based Filipino urban planning professional Benjie dela Peña are the blog.

In its latest post, the Philippine Skidmore blog stated Naga City has also released a three-dimensional map of the city which could be viewed on Google Earth.

The local government's GIS information can now be downloaded at http://gis.naga.gov.ph/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/Data.

Alampay and Dela Peña said many Filipinos are now discovering Google Earth.

For Philippine history buffs, Google Earth now offers a useful "time" or "HISTO" of most of the World War II battles fought in the country.

One Google Earth map identifies the exact location of known volcanoes throughout the archipelago. Two maps also provide complete information on the potential and existing mining sites in the country.

There is even also a Google Earth map of all Philippine airports.

Alampay and Dela Peña said they have started to compile links to all these maps in "Google Earth Philippines" (www.google earthphilippines.pbwiki.com).

Both are now inviting people to add to its growing list of Google Earth maps.

Naga City was the recent addition to Google Earth Philippines' growing list.

The local government has allowed these access to GIS information that has been used to visualize city data.

"We've just been running crazy with Google Earth now that Metro Manila is being rendered in high-resolution. We've been mapping EMEs (Google Earth markers) until finally we put up the 'Google Earth Philippines'. Both are designed to act as a one-stop shop for Google Earth stuff (EMEs, blending models, maps etc.) for the Philippines," Alampay said in an e-mail.

Google Earth Philippines also includes maps to Metro Manila landmarks, hydrodelic and geothermal plants, world heritage sites in the country, mountains, forest covers (plotted by Greenpeace), and locations and products of local agrarian reform beneficiaries.

A virtual helicopter tour of the Philippines, courtesy of "Our Agricultural Planet" blog of Filipinos Aaron Cline, was also added.

The applications of Google Earth Philippines are endless, Alampay continued, as he suggested several ideas on how Google Earth can be used to point out the disturbing "green zones" in cities to local government officials.

Dela Peña and Alampay hope to encourage people to use Google Earth Philippines "to get people talking about urban planning issues."

Both Alampay and Dela Peña have created a blog, dubbed "Green Manila Makeover" (http://greenmakeover.blogspot.com/), which they have renamed Philippine Makeover, to encourage Filipinos to love Philippines to self-invent light.

"I'm an urban planner and I've been trying to get urban planning issues on the table in Metro Manila—and get people to talk about our built fabric. I was frustrated by the lack of information available online. Then Google Earth updated to the high-resolution telemetry was a big bonus. Baby came up with the idea for the Great Manila Makeover to get people to re-imagine the city, which is my passion," said Dela Peña in an online chat.

Ironically, both founders are now living outside the Philippines. Yet they share the vision and dream of rebuilding the country, starting with Metro Manila.

"It's so easy with Google Earth to see that we're one country. It's so easy to link to each other. It's easy to bridge investors with farmers. To point out potential green zones to local officials. At least it's easy to picture it while looking at the country from a distance," Cosby but true. If we can picture it, we should be able to make it," added Alampay.

Dela Peña noted that cities are the largest artifacts of civilization.

"We need to understand our cities if we want to understand our culture. To put it another way the social, political, economic and cultural issues we face all have spatial characteristics—and are shaped by the fabric of our built environment. Like the rest of the world, we are rapidly urbanizing—up to 60 percent according to the last census estimate. When we begin the work of improving our cities, we begin the real work of improving the (already today) quality of life of our citizens," he stressed.

NTC, private . . .

From page B11

digitalize 2015.

Byrne said Sarmiento said the NTC expects to accept applications among firms seeking to digitalize TV.

In 2010, he said NTC will no longer accept applications for companies wanting to offer analog TV.

Digital television is a telecommunication system for broadcasting moving pictures and sound by means of digital signals, in contrast to analog signals in analog (traditional) TV. It uses digital modulation data, which is digitally compressed and requires decoding by a specially designed television set or a standard receiver with a set-top box.

Digital television has several advantages over traditional TV, the most significant being use of a smaller channel bandwidth. The freed up span for more digital channels, since non-television services such as pay-multimedia services and the generation of revenue from the sales of frequency spectrum taken by analog TV. There are also special services such as multicasting (more than one program on the same channel), electronic program guides and interactivity.

Digital television often has a superior image quality and better reception than analog. However, it should be noted that digital television picture technology is still in its early stages and there are many advances yet to be made in obtaining picture data from cameras, or sending taken pictures across private circuits.

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Microsoft Philippines to open mobile division

Erwin Oliva
Contributor

MICROSOFT PHILIPPINES WILL open a mobile division starting this month, the company's top executive told Infotech.

Microsoft Philippines Managing Director Antonio "T.J." Javier said the still-unnamed mobile division will focus on growing the local subsidiary's market share and "mindshare" in the mobile business.

Javier said people have been hired to man this division but declined to name who these people are.

"This [division] will focus on the hardest and applications," the Microsoft Philippines executive added.

Microsoft Philippines is now the software company's subsidiary in the Asia Pacific region that experiences the emerging markets. With this, the local subsidiary has been getting additional funding and resources to explore new markets and products, and the opening of the mobile division is one of the results, Javier said.

It was not surprising for Microsoft to finally make its presence felt in the Philippine mobile market.

During last month's Communitytech 2006, Microsoft had one of the biggest booths in the annual celebration, Bandwidth.com.ph said conference held every year in Singapore.

At its booth, Microsoft displayed numerous mobile handsets that run on Microsoft's mobile phone software operating system.

Javier said the mobile division will also focus on bringing mobile applications to the local market.

He said that Microsoft Philippines currently has programs for families of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) who regularly use "Microsoft tube" set up abroad to stay in touch with their loved ones.

The Microsoft executive said the local subsidiary has a new project with the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration. This project will experiment on a service that will allow OFWs to speak with their families utilizing some of the most true collection methods such as wi-fi and mobile voice over Internet Protocol or VoIP and to rents their earnings and digitally transfer them to their designated beneficiaries from a Windows Mobile 5.0 (wi-fi and cellular-enabled) device.

The first phase of this trial with OFWs is currently underway, Javier added.

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NTC scraps blacklisting plans for text spam

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Commission (NTC) has decided to scrap plans to blacklist firms barred spamming mobile phone subscribers with unsolicited text messages as official told Infotech.

Instead, the agency has resorted to its original policy that puts the burden back to subscribers who "opt-in" or agree to a particular commercial and promotional advertisements via text messaging, NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said.

The NTC has initially proposed the blacklisting system, dubbed "text-to-text." However, Sarmiento said the constant providers and mobile phone operators opposed this idea.

Eventually, the white-listing approach, "dubbed text-out," was pushed. Mobile phone operators and content providers opposed this plan again, arguing it violates privacy issues, Sarmiento said.

Meanwhile, the NTC has ordered a moratorium on mobile phone text messaging on 020 Shadow 02 rules. That came after incurring complaints from local subscribers who were receiving numerous unsolicited text messages despite opting out to specific commercial or promotional advertisements.

The revised guidelines for broadcast text messaging, which consumers will these changes, will come out soon, the official added.

Sarmiento said the NTC would still support strike penalties to those who continue to ignore the agency's rules, and the registration of all content providers.

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NTC, private sector working on transition to digital TV

By Erwin Oliva
Contributor

BROADCASTING FIRMS and the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) are now working on guidelines to the planned transition to digital television in 2015 in the Philippines, an NTC official told Infotech.

NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge Sarmiento said the agency and representatives of the local industry have formed a technical working group to work on the government guidelines in the transition to digital TV.

The NTC official said the rules and procedures for the transition are expected to be ready by next month.

The agency and the local broadcasting industry expect to go all-

intel

Tech Support and Maintenance for SMBs: Prevention and Cure

By Eric Rosario, Country Manager
Intel Microelectronics Philippines, Inc.

BUSINESS Monday

E-mail: business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor
Margie Quiroz Rapisa

₱100B just change in East Asia's infra boom

Solon wants new gov't agency to protect private firms' massive investments

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S proclamation to spur ₱100 billion (roughly $2 billion) to develop the country's infrastructure sounds impressive.

But not when you consider what the entire East Asia region will spend in the next four years for infrastructure—$1.65 trillion.

"To keep pace with its neighbors, the Philippines will need to rely more on private investors putting their money in toll roads, seaports and airports, and power plants under a build-operate-and-transfer mode in the next five years if it plans to keep at pace with the economic growth of its deep-pocketed neighbors.

This is why Arroyo economic adviser and Albay Rep. Joey Salceda is pushing for the establishment of a BOT Authority to be chaired by the President herself that would ensure that right-of-way impediments by barangay to senate in high-profile BOT projects such as the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 project of Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. and Subic's Calaguio Botticon-Kadayuan power plant in Laguna.

"With the President taking a hands-on control of these projects, the proposed BOT Authority should fast-up government's commitment and full attention to identifying critical areas of private sector participation in our infrastructure development to facilitate transaction activities in our urban and regional growth areas" Salceda says.

Once the next four years, Salceda says that this would inspire $165 billion in finance to infrastructure requirements. "As part of the fastest growing region in the world, the Philippines should be well-prepared to capturing considerable investments with a sound infrastructure policy framework that is both comprehensive and responsive in facilitating economic growth" Salceda said.

The lack of basic infrastructure requirements would still be in power generation at $60 billion, followed by road networks at $50 billion, telecoms with $20 billion, water and sanitation at $20 billion and railways with $15 billion.

With the BOT Authority, Salceda expects improved terms of oversight of the planning and coordination of investments. "We should do away with the propensity of line agencies to

PHOTO, B12

MERCY Palabrica, 44, says finding work as a laborer in the newly established coco coir plant in her town in San Isidro in Davao Oriental augments her family's income.

Going nuts over coconut

By Dennis S. Santos

SAN ISIDRO, DAVAO ORIENTAL—Some 70 percent of the more than 30,000 people here rely on coconut farming. The rest are in to fishing or other forms of small-scale livelihood.

It has been like this for the four decade history of the province.

Mayor Apolinar Bueta Jr. says the overtaken trade number of poverty grapples many unemployed farmers here where the unemployment rate is very high.

"Roughly, only 10 percent (of the people in San Isidro) are employed in various offices," Bueta says.

He says coconut farming alone cannot provide for a family's need. Seeing the need to diversify their livelihood, farmers moved to planted other high-value crops such as mango, bananas and coffee.

But the coconut industry will always be the main economic driver for many of the farmers here; many of them do not own the land they till.

The province's 11 towns, has kaka included, are considered the country's coconut capital, supplying the largest volume of copra.

But earnings are erratic because copra's market price varies.

A new group is offering some hope to the farmers.

Hope industry

Rodilyn Bawilo, plant manager of the Davao Oriental Coco Husk Social Enterprise Inc., a business enterprise set up only two years ago, offers some answers.

Bawilo says their firm, initially by two nongovernment organizations—the Kalumonan Development Center Inc. and United Kalusugan Migrant Services Foundation Inc., was created "specifically to provide jobs and augment the coconut farmers' income."

It also wants to help the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW), who are residents of this town, to put their money into good use by investing in the industry.

The group buys coconut husks, which has been considered as waste products.

Coconut farmers can now earn as much as ₱2,000 per harvest, depending on the volume.

"The farmers don't even have to go to our plant to sell their husks, since we go around and buy from them," Bawilo says.

The raw coconut husks are then processed into useful materials such as coco coir or coir fiber and fiber coir dust or coco peat.

Coco fiber has many industrial purposes like filings for furniture, for production of brushes, carpets, rugs, doormats, netting and erosion treatments.

It was also recently used in making "geotextile," a material for making bonded mats that are effective for soil erosion and drainage control.

China, for instance, makes use of the coco coir to the main component in making timber "board."

The coco dust—which is the by-product of coir fiber making, in turn—can be used as soil conditioner, found to be useful for horticulture activities and botanic gardens.

With a start-up capital of ₱1.3 million, the company started its operations in 2004 with only four office staff workers and 10 laborers.

Today the company's capital stands at more than ₱5 million, and employs more than 60.

Bawilo is confident they are making headway and will extend or expanding their capacity.

Company's mission

"This is a multi-sectoral project," he says. What the company aims goes to their expansion project.

The plant manufacturers about 50 tons of coco fiber a month, but there market in China demands at least 100 tons.

Bawilo says many are questioning why they are into an enterprise where they are an NGO. He says the company's ownership will eventually be turned over to the farmers themselves, through a "multi-stakeholder" scheme.

"And once they learn to operate the growing company, the farmers themselves will be the one to run and manage it."

Mercy Palabrica, 40, a plant laborer, says that because of the opportunity to work, she can now augment the meager salary of her husband.

"It has somewhat eased my financial problem," she says.

Canute, Cannes or 'camote'?

By Greg Garcia
Contributor

I ONCE SAT IN A meeting between my late boss, Tomas B. Aguirre, a banker's banker but who has I admired more for his innate sense of marketing, and the manager of his hotel property.

The latter, much like Gerard Austria from the recently upset throwing-yet-another-themed-occupancy-rate, the hotel manager proudly announced, "Sir, we just bought an ice-making machine."

"What we need is a customer-making machine," was the quick retort of Aguirre.

Ouch. The truth hurts.

This incident came to mind as I perused the advertising industry's **excellent trade paper, Adobo.**

In what one can only glean, you will read indications that the next generation of our advertising professionals are being led to believe that advertisers should emulate these "ice-making machines" (consumer-making machines (increased market shares).

Why, a conundrum of a multi-billion dollar advertising agency even proclaimed in the same magazine that "Improving the quality of our creative work is something that clients ask us to do, and to them, **winning at Cannes is the (very wrong) barrier which we must aim."**

Premium on awards

I wonder which of his clients put more premium on winning awards than increasing share points when evaluating advertising?

Perhaps it is wiser if we heed the advice of Phil Dusenberry, the creative person who earned BBDO prizes creative powerhouse.

Dusenberry said: "When you boil it all down, the purpose of **any business is to improve results.** Tests to that your business performance better. In my line of work, the goal is to make sales. I want ads for the clients so that sales pick up. I don't express it any simpler than that. Clients advertise with one overriding objective: sell more stuff."

Sure, if the creative work that **sells stuff wins awards, great.**

But what if the creative work sells a lot of stuff but doesn't win awards? Is it still bad?

Don't get me wrong. I believe in creative awards.

A creative award is a great **motivation for creative people to** come up with better work.

In Cannes, a well-known creative, sums it up well. He said: "You have to remember that creative people have a combination of giant ego and naive humanity. They need validation for their work, and they don't necessarily get that from clients. Instead they go looking for that, and it **instigates all sorts of** mischief from their peers."

Moving the brand

But I drew the line when the **moving motivation in doing creative** is to win awards rather than to move the brand.

You want an ego massage? Go spend your own money and not the client's.

So, do award-winning **commercials sell?**

To get answers to the bedevilling question, "Do award-winning commercials sell?" the Lee Stanford Co. in 1992 and 1993 conducted a study of the 200 most-awarded commercials in the world.

Despite the difficulty of not **having a single set of criteria to** judge effectiveness because of varying goals and standards, the study revealed that 86 percent of the 200 commercials were unrelated with market share success.

But, take note that the majority **of the award-winning commercials** reviewed were those of massive brands. Major spending accounts of the advertising agencies. So some observed clients enriched with less "icons ads."

Local scene

So, what's happening in the local scene?

Well, looking again at the trade magazine Adobo, if creative awards are measurements of great work for clients, then the major advertisers in the country are being short-changed.

Here's a client list of some of the Philippine winners in the Asia Pacific Advertising Festival 2006 "Adobo":

Caritas's Foundation, Greenpeace, Childhope, Palmer Asia, Vaseline. And Lamy pens.

I know Vaseline.

But what happened to the advertising of those major advertisers **who provide the money for** the advertising agency folks to go to Cannes?

On those results mean that the no-winning clients, for example, of the above-Philippines Harvest Agency (according to Campaign Brief Asia) like Pedlia, Pepsi, Philsa, Pfizer, and even our Department of Tourism are getting lousy creative work?

Which local client handled by **them (haphugged) been obnoxiously** to market leadership because of award-winning advertising?

Just a question. Not a criticism. But a puzzlement. You have to admire these guys for coordinately reaching for a Cannes gold award.

But one cannot help but ask the question: Why have award-winning agencies not concentrated on producing award-winning creativity for their brand and host clients?

Why the need to pick up objects' non-advertising clients in practice award-winning advertising?

Maybe self-serving creativity goes too far?

"People say it is easier to create a memorable advertisement than it is to create advertisements that makes the product memorable. A number of times have proved that people often remember a commercial, but not a product," according to research.

The key to avoiding this from happening is hard work. Harder work.

Every professionally run advertising agency has a propriety formula on how to come up with big selling ideas.

Dusenberry describe their as BADD (Diamond, Analysis, Insight, Strategy and Execution). This is the kind of stuff that creatives (key creatives) hate. Where no execution is done or approved until they've got the basics right.

Brilliant award-winning idea but self-serving? Please bother.

If the strategy is right but the **execution is average**, the brand will continue to grow. But if the strategy is average, even execution of winning ad cannot save a brand's decline.

Creatives today are being trained to look at executions and **their award-winning potential** rather than concentrating on coming up with insightful ideas based on a sound strategy to produce those coveted award-winning executions.

"Ice-making," rather than "customer-making."

And we all a common creative paradox: the narrower your focus and the more precise the positioning, the more room you have to move.

The best creative community will do well to look at the current advertising of Apple computers, the icon of hip. It's a side-by-side hand-writing representation of Procter & Gamble.

In the commercials, the advantages of Apple versus PCs are spelled out clearly without insulting the likability factor of the commercial.

The brand is central to the story.

Contrast this with the trend to produce hip video-joke commercials and then, as an afterthought, just attaching the name of the brand to the end.

If the agency can't live with client **laws—every time this happens.**

Maybe the clients have discovered that they have been bankrolling unnecessarily the ego trainings of their agencies.

How else can you explain the dismantling of advertising agencies **in the clients' marketing activities** and their diminishing income?

In a recent article, David Gunnner of the local BBDO office cited the legend of King Canute and his failure in turning the tide. He was preaching discipline in creativity and trying to stop the onslaught of award-oriented advertising.

Having read the King Canute, it seems more appropriate than King Canute is compared to today's advertising clients. Canute, can do no wrong if his company wins creative awards.

In with the awards in hand, he also to stop the wave of familiar-looking commercials.

Well, when the King Canute client gets wet, he can always sell his agency to go and plant cannon.

[The author was the former chief creative officer and managing director of Remington Lee Harvey. Feedback at gregg1 phil@yahoo.com]

P100B is just change in East Asia's infra boom

SALCEDA

ernance their own infrastructure corporations that inevitably add to the confusion of a system inflicted with policy fragmentation").

Salceda explains that the proposed BIT Authority would also spearhead international road shows to attract investments for infrastructures in the country.

The BIT Authority, which will have a multi-agency policy making committee, would govern not questions on policy and isn't in the determination and implementation of public-private partnerships in infrastructure investments," says Salceda who cited the lack of safeguards in BOT rules that most local and foreign investors consider before they commit their funds into the country.

The BIT Authority will take charge of implementing the **President's Infrastructure** Roadmap which would detail a countrywide survey of possible areas for investments in infrastructure development, especially in the rural areas such as water systems, ports, roads and bridges, airstrips and harbors.

The Infrastructure Roadmap, the President's follow-up to her first State of the Nation Address, will **focus on institutional measures** abroad but can also tap investments from overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs). The Infrastructure Roadmap would allow our OFWs to look into areas of **investments in their own locali**ties, thereby investing in infrastructure development of their hometowns."

"We are now reaping the gains of our success in implementing the fiscal reform program. With encouraging feedback from the credit rating agencies, **creditors will now enable us to** lower the cost of financing from the private sector in infrastructure investments," he says.

The Infrastructure Roadmap will address the declining share of infrastructure in the budget, from 2.6% in 2005, to PhP1.3B, the only agency to receive the 2-G percent of gross domestic products for infrastructure deficit.

The World Bank is concerned optimist compared to Thailand and Vietnam which spends more **than 7 percent of their GDP** as it. Some their infrastructure requirements.

Salceda says that not only does the country spend too little but **that its infrastructure quality** as ranked by the World Competitiveness Report falls below the average compared to the fast-growing economies of East Asia **such as Malaysia, Thailand**, China, Indonesia and Singapore.

The World Bank is concerned over government's spending cuts, saying that further expenditure restraints for infrastructures, basic services and poverty reduction efforts would seriously undermine the country's fiscal sustainability.

In a draft paper presented during the recent 2006 Philippine Development Forum, the World Bank said expenditure cuts from 19.5 percent of GDP in 2003 to 17.3 percent in 2005 across major spending categories—except conditional cash transfers—will severely affect public sector efficiency and poverty reduction efforts.

While the World Bank recognizes as significant the 1-percent reduction in the national government deficit over the last two years, it says several fiscal challenges remain to be achieved a balanced at the expense of growth and other development objectives.

Continuing quest for innovative solutions

THE TWIN FORCES OF globalization and interconnectivity made possible by the Internet have made the business environment increasingly complex and unpredictable.

To most managers the world over, these developments are **one big challenge.**

In today's fast-paced business environment, competitiveness gained from superior products, advanced production technologies, fast, human brands, or cost-effective management systems **can no longer be sustained for** long.

Survival under these uncertain circumstances requires organizations to adapt quickly in a continuously unfolding situation.

In today's highly volatile world of business, continuous innovation is the key to success.

Today's managers deal with much more complex and more varied problems than those faced by their predecessors.

They grapple with problems that defy traditional analyses and standard classifications.

They are increasingly aware that effective management is no longer a simple matter of applying standard business decision rules of the type taught in business schools, nor merely adopting the best practices of successful companies.

MAPping THE FUTURE

By Nicanor S. Poblador

ful business organizations.

They are beginning to realize that they themselves must learn how to craft their own unique solutions to the equally unique problems they face.

Top 10 conventional management wisdom is no longer to be believed, when there contravenes the new orthodoxy, if indeed there is one?

What are the new rules of the game, if there are any? What new individual and organizational competencies must be developed to survive these challenging times?

At a first seminar step to address these questions, the Management Association of the Philippines' (MAP) decided recently to organize a series of management forums to provide the appropriate venues for management professionals to dialogue on the management issues of the day.

This series of forums will look at how Philippine businesses are coping under hostile business conditions. It seeks to discover what bold and innovative solutions have been adopted by these companies in their trying and challenging times to survive and to create value for their shareholders.

For this purpose, MAP through its management development committee has invited as keynote speakers in the series of forums chief executive officers of business organizations known for their innovative approaches to strategy.

These invited speakers will present their respective strategic platforms before a group of top-level managers, MAP members and scholastics. These presentations will be followed by open forums in which the strategies will be extensively discussed.

For this year's series, MAP has invited the following as keynote speakers:

- Jaime C. Tan, chair of Tan Yan Kee Foundation and Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Philippines);
- Jose C. Ejercito, chair, Asian Spirits;
- Alfredo J. Ayala, CEO of Ayala Land, Inc. (the MAP's Management Man of the Year); and
- Carlos C. Ejercito, president and CEO of the United Laboratories Group of Companies.

The open forums will be led by the following resource persons:

- Gregorio S. Navarro, managing partner and CEO, Punongbayan and Araullo;
- Jesus C. Gallegos, professor, Asian Institute of Management;
- Philip E. Juico of the Graduate School of Business, De La Salle University and Isabelo L. Lim; and
- Victor L. Magbanua, vice president and CEO, BGY Development Corporation (real estate investment).

MAP has also assembled a panel of experts representing the various areas of management to help moderate the discussions at each of the four sessions scheduled for this year.

The first of the series will be held on Thursday, July 13, from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m at the Conservatory of The Peninsula Manila.

For participation, please communicate your inquiries to the MAP secretariat at these contact numbers: 751-1151 and 751-1152, or email them at mapsec@globelines.com.ph.

[The article reflects the personal opinions of the author and does not reflect the official stand of the Management Association of the Philippines. The author is an active academic and a knowledge manager. Email comments: Author at mapsec@globeline.com.ph]

Foundations celebrate CSR week

THE LEAGUE OF CORPORATE Foundations (LCF) will tap local and international experts on corporate social responsibility (CSR) during the LCF "CSR Expo 2006: Take CSR to Heart." LCF announced during the event's launching at the Cultural Hall of Ateneo Shaw/Rizal Building in Makati City.

The three-day expo, to be held on July 11-13, 2006 at the Ateneo Business Leadership Institute in Rockefeller Global City (between Market Market Ateneo) and International School Manila), aims to integrate corporate social responsibility to all levels of businesses in the country and make CSR everybody's business.

"We hope to reach out to as many companies regardless of size—**whether small, medium or** large—to take CSR to heart. This expo will show how we overcome the challenges in integrating CSR into our main strategy as companies. It is a celebration for our success as corporate citizens," LCF president said Miriam Phillips-Quisumbing, executive director Bobby Calingo said.

The CSR Expo 2006 will feature talks and plenary sessions with local CEOs and CSR experts and international speakers such as Dr. Florencio Cayton, president and CEO of The Minneapolis Foundation and former chairman of the Council on Foundations, (USA), Nilsonia Noble, United Nations resident coordinator in the Philippines, Bob Corse, managing director for Southeast Asia, Edelman Singapore, Anne-Marie Huxley, founder of Models of Success and Sustainability and director of CSR Summit 2005 (Australia), and Damien Power and John Pinkstone, executive director and deputy director of Charities Aid Foundation (Australia), respectively.

The annual event will unite small, medium and large businesses in the Philippines for the common cause of providing system-wide inclusive solutions to social problems in the country.

"Over the last few years, we have been negotiating. Our event for the main purpose of sharing the best practices of CSR among the public, especially among the marginalized sectors of society. It also provides a venue wherein those of us in the business, government and civil society can share our experiences and look for synergy to ensure that our efforts have a direct and sustainable impact," Petrus Gop, president Rodial M. Pedraglio said.

"While we compete very aggressively in the market, when it comes to CSR we're on the same team. We share the same ideals. What we usually need to do now is get a lot more companies and a lot more people to really take CSR to heart because not only when you internalize CSR that you really see that this is not an expense rather this is an investment for the future," Shell companies in the Philippines chairman RJ Chua explained.

LCF presented the program for the CSR Expo 2006, which focuses on involving CEOs, middle management and rank and file employees and youth in sharing the Filipino CSR experience.

The LCF CSR Expo 2006 is organized for all those who want to go to the event may use public utility jeeps and buses (especially the Market! Market! Ayala and Guadalupe Market Market! routes. For more information visit www.lcf.org.ph or call 892-9189, 981-0884/892-5751.

Young pilot earns from personal websites

By Frank Cimatu
Phil.Net News Features Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—"I WANT to belong in only one business," wrote one Filipino blogger. And many Filipinos agree with him.

There may only be less than a tenth of the Philippine population using the Internet but most of them even more than just to surf and play games.

There are at least five million Filipinos who have accounts in Friendster, a popular online "class book," while about 73,000 Filipinos have web logs (blogs), according to the Blog Herald, an online databank of blogs.

"Blogs can only get you so far," said Jennifer Kalaw-Ibon, 23, founder of Create Your Own Website (www.cyow.com) based in Bacolod City.

"We need something that can tell the world that you are better than the ordinary," said Kalaw-Ibon, a Filipino-American who graduated with a science and technology course at the University of Nevada, Reno. She bakes it as a hobby too.

She is licensed pilot. Kalaw-Ibon owns home often to visit Bacolod and Mandaluyong. Sometimes, she

JENNIFER Kalaw-Ibon, founder of Create Your Own Website.

homesees of her mother, economist Tita Nadonza.

But late year, she decided not only to visit the country but to set up CYOW.

Kalaw-Ibon's Baguio-based company aims to go beyond blogs by giving Filipinos their own professional looking website for free.

The free website is available for those who want only three pages. Those who want a more extensive website can avail of her company's $5 (P260) a month hosting fee.

Kalaw-Ibon recalls that one of their first customers was a businessman dealing in waste management. "He just put in his Powerpoint presentation and then [some] new messages in his computer to upload his website. He did this for free in only 15 minutes," she says.

"With a blog, you are not given a website as the features provided for you are very limited. Blogs are personal and non-censored," she says.

The www.cyow.com is for those who want a custom-made website with advanced features like text on photos, text boxes, buttons, custom borders, forms, guestbook, image modifiers, zoom-in and out, insertion of various objects and many others.

"Websites are a great reputation. You may have a hole-in-the-wall business, but with a great website, you can project yourself bigger than life," she says.

Kalaw-Ibon says she came out the idea when she realized that about 30,000 users "make your own website" in Yahoo's search engine. The same request was made by almost the same number of people in Google and Overture, she says.

She assembled a team that included her siblings in the United States and web designers from Baguio.

Kalaw-Ibon says locating her CYOW team in Baguio made it cheaper to develop and expand their services.

Kalaw-Ibon took it from her father, Michael Kalaw-Ibon, who helped found Sky Mike Security Services, one of the biggest security agencies in Northern Luzon.

Later shifting his business career to website design, the elder Kalaw-Ibon helped develop Web Asian Pro, which offers more sophisticated designs and fashion their own websites.

"This service has taken the best functions of Dreamweaver and Flash, and combined them in an easy-to-use online service," Kalaw-Ibon says.

"The problem is hosted online so features and new capabilities can easily be added and we can provide the product at the most economical cost," she says of the Web Asian Pro.

"It used to be that professional websites were created only by so-called professionals. A lot of hard work went into simplifying a very complex technology so one part-time or an average businessmen can create his own website with little or no budget," says Ian Agbisay, director of BeGlobal Design, a sister company of CYOW.

"The target for CYOW is mainly the Philippines and US, but CYOW has been designed to support Asian languages, including Japanese, Korean and simplified Chinese," said Agbisay.

Since CYOW started operations only this year, it has restricted itself to companies in Northern Luzon and the West Coast in the US.

How to invest in stocks, even if you're abroad

A NEW BREED OF BROKERS IS PROMISING direct and online access to the Philippine Stock Market to help overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) and migrant investor in the local stock market from anywhere in the world with access to the Internet at their convenience.

Francis Lim, PSE president and chief executive officer, said "online brokers will level the playing field not only for OFWs and migrants but also for small individuals."

"With a minimum amount of investment, online clients can have access to the same information as everyone else and execute their trades within seconds," Lim said. "The online service gives them the same advantage that other market participants enjoy in dealing with conventional brokers."

The same service is also ideal for investors in the provinces, according to Lim, investors in the provinces can lessen spend on costly long distance calls to get in touch with their brokers in Manila to invest in the stock market.

If the potential investor has limited access to the Internet, he can still invest in the stock market through the online brokers.

"We don't have to be a big investor to avail of the services of online brokers, because for as low as P25,000 you can open an account with them," Lim said.

The rate of commission that an online broker can charge is not set by the rates, but it can go as low as 0.25 percent of the value of the transaction, which is the lowest possible broker's commission allowed by the PSE.

"But best of all for the OFWs, they can save part of space in their convenience in the growth potential of Philippine companies listed in the PSE without having to fly home just to invest in the stock market," Lim said.

Several stock brokerage companies offer online direct online trading services or maintain an tie-up with online trading affiliates.

They include dll Capital Investors Inc. (www.dlcapitalonline.com), Armed Capital Equities Corporation (www.armedcapital.ph), BPI Securities Corporation (bpisecurities.com), COL Securities (www.colsecurities.com), DivineMed Securities (www.dlinc.com), 8 Top Securities (www.8tsecurities.com) and SCBC Securities, Inc. (www.scbcsec.com).

Lim expects more trading participants to offer online services and get a piece of the action from the growing remittances of OFWs as well as the increasing sophistication, familiarity and sureness of online-based transactions. Last year OFW remittances reached $10.5 billion and this year the amount is expected to reach $11.8 billion.

"I am encouraging the trading participants to set-up their online retail brokerage companies," Lim said. "If the PSE can capture even just 10 percent of these remittances, that would add significant activity to the market."

But how do you start trading online?

"It is easy to open an investment account with an online broker," Lim explained. "Just access the website of an online broker, fill up an online application form, submit the necessary documents and information required, deposit the initial investment, and that's it. You are now ready to invest in the stock market... online, of course." Lim quipped.

What if you work in a country with a different time zone? "There are some online brokers that allow their clients to enter orders anytime even when the market is closed. This type of service enables those based in different time zones to enter their orders at their convenience." Lim explained "An OFW say in the US or Canada, need not spend sleepless nights waiting for the PSE to open trading.

"All the OFW has to do is enter their off-hour buy or sell order online. Then he or she can go to sleep" Lim stressed. "The computer will automatically process the order and send it to the PSE for order execution when the market opens," Lim explained.

To purchase a stock online, one must have the funds available in his or her account with the online broker. Once the purchase is made, the amount is immediately deducted from his or her account. On the other hand, when one sells, the proceeds are accredited to his or her account within three days. Some online brokers complete this debit-credit process immediately so you don't have to wait that long to buy another stock.

Finally, however, urged would-be investors, whether conventional or online, to learn the rudiments of stock market investing before committing money into the stock market so they minimize the risk of getting burned.

Would-be investors can learn about investing by accessing online stock trading games. The PSE and the online brokers keep their respective online trading games on their websites.

Lim exhorted aspiring stock market investors to check out these games.

Enticing the middle market to try online stock trading

ONLINE BROKERAGE FIRM CitisecOnline is pursuing a vigorous stock market education program as its advocacy to expand the retail investor market in the country. The campaign is primarily focused on middle-income earners including Overseas Filipino workers as their beneficiaries and the workforce in the robustly growing business process outsourcing sector.

"With the use of technology, CitisecOnline is providing a service to a market that has been underserved and neglected by the stock brokerage industry" explains Leonardo Tan, president of CitisecOnline.com, Inc. "The company hopes to promote the great potentials offered by online stock trading to the investing public as investor usage increases and the cost of connectivity decreases. While many other brokerages have acknowledged the size of the mid-to-mass market, they have been discouraged by the economic benefits of servicing the middle income market. This niche has yet to fully appreciate the benefits of the new technology. Moreover, mid-income earners have limited financial capabilities.

"But information technology has now made it much more cost-effective to reach out to mid-income Filipinos," according to Tan. "It has also made it easier for them to appreciate the stock market through the information and analysis we make available to them."

CitisecOnline's host in class features and online tools help its customers make better investment decisions. The site displays the real-time tickers, most actively traded stocks, the relevant headlines and analysis of listed companies, as well as a watchlist of favorite stocks that an investor can track throughout the trading day. Particularly attractive is its novice trackers on the research menu that describe company developments. Tutors are followed by CitisecOnline's analyst views of the impact

CitisecOnline.com's Jessie Barredo, Edward Lee and Dino Ruiz

of events on the stock's share price and hence yet a recommendation to buy or sell the stock.

CitisecOnline hopes to demystify the stock market for the average Filipino earner, robust CitisecOnline chairman Edward Lee. The company appears to be succeeding as evidenced by the growth of its subscriber base. Since the end of 2005, customer base of CitisecOnline has more than doubled.

As part of its investor education campaign, CitisecOnline conducts free seminars on stock market investing, and how to successfully trade online. Seminars are held regularly at its Ortigas Center office in Pasig. The ongoing lineup for this cycle and the same seminar to companies and schools that can gather a critical mass of potential investors. It has likewise made presentations to large audiences in key cities like Cebu, Baguio and Iloilo.

Being in its early growth stage, the company proceeds to expand its services and capabilities. The positive customer feedback has pushed management to introduce more products, services and functionalities that can make investing a more convenient experience. Subscribers can also call investor representatives who can help them in their trades.

Interested individuals may avail of a seven-day trial period through www.citiseconline.com. CitisecOnline holds seminars at its headquarters at Rm. 2705-A Tuan Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Center, Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. There are only 50 slots available per session. To register, call 6-233-777 or email to fulpdelrio@thecorp.com.

Leadership lessons from Lewis and Clark - II

Front page B4

pressed the Corps.

Like other leaders, Jefferson, the great mind and great president, took a frozen and reserved manner-ing a person according to his dream before it became a reality. Jefferson's foresight reminds me of one of my favorite quotes by John Maxwell, "When opportunity comes, it's too late to prepare."

The first responsibility of the mentor is to prepare others for the future.

The best way a mentor can prepare another leader is to expose him or her to other great people. In the years prior to his famed journey into the American wilderness, Meriwether Lewis was Jefferson's personal

secretary and constant dinner companion.

I love the statement from Stephen Ambrose uses to describe the distance hosted by Jefferson: "Every philosopher, scientist, geographer and military expert that the country had to offer came to those dinners." Through those social dinners, Jefferson was able to acquaint Lewis with the leading minds in America.

In revealing the concept of one person mentoring another to others. No single individual possesses the requisite skills to fully mentor a rising leader.

Realizing their limitations, great mentors not only draw from a personal reserve of experiences and knowledge, but they also connect their pupils with other authorities and experts to lend exposure to additional thoughts and ideas, just as Jefferson did for Lewis.

Preparation consists of many exercises.

In the writings of eminent historian Stephen Ambrose, we see the diverse experiences of Lewis' training:

"He trained to use the sextant and the chronometer, and the instruments to aid in the longitude that he was charged with..."

"He studied medicine in Philadelphia under Dr. Benjamin Rush, a member of the American Philosophical Society, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and the most eminent American physician of the day..."

"Lewis studied botany under the author of the first textbook on the subject published in the United States..."

"He also talked with experts in geography and cartography, and by the time that he left St. Louis a year later, Meriwether Lewis had probably the broadest field of knowledge of any American save Jefferson himself."

Clearly, Meriwether Lewis was exposed to a process of continual retention and had access to the finest minds of the day during his time of preparation.

Preparation provides confidence when facing the unknown.

In his wisdom, Jefferson prepared Lewis for the trip with the understanding that the expedition would encounter unknown experiences in the uncharted territory of the Louisiana Purchase.

With so much uncertainty in front of Lewis, Jefferson felt that he needed to do his best to give Lewis as much preparation as possible to instill the confidence that would be needed when the journey began.

For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public classes, workshops or seminars or workshops, please email us at maxwell@leadership.ph or call 813-2732/40 and ask for Jen or Bing. The MAXWELL ON 360 for 2006 (Issues) is per daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell. God bless!

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Leadership lessons from Lewis and Clark-II

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

RALFORD LUCOCK RECALLED A RIDDLE, a play of Alexander the Great to which the writer described the panic felt by the Greek army when Alexander died.

They had followed Alexander across Asia Minor and crossed [illegible] the Hindukush Mountains that form a natural barrier separating northern India from the plateau of Tibet in Hindu.

"And there they discovered that they had reached close off the map. Their only maps were Greek maps. Those maps showed only a part of Asia Minor. The rest of the map was a blank space."

The Greek army was not the first group to find itself in uncharted terrain, nor was it by any means the last. Amidst globalization, a miserable job market, shifting economic realities, and technological innovations, the leaders of today frequently find themselves marching through unexplored and unmapped terrain. In these moments, no one has marked the road, no precedents have been set, and it falls upon the leader to blaze a new trail. How can a person prepare to lead effectively in such an uncertain environment?

Last week, we looked at the leadership of two great American explorers who dared to march off of the map of their familiar world: Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. The unprobable success of their Corps of Discovery was due to more than their on-the-spot genius.

Preparation preceded their expedition and paved their way to greatness. In this column, we'll examine Lewis' preparation under the tutelage of President Thomas Jefferson to find tried-and-true principles to aid our leadership journeys.

Preparation should begin with the dream, not with the reality.

Jefferson began to groom Lewis to lead the momentous expedition across America long before the Louisiana Purchase was even a possibility, and before Congress ap-

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Meat, fish talk on

THE SOLIDS Resource Skills Development Program will conduct a one-day seminar on meat and fish processing. The session will be held in the UPAA Alumni Center, Magsaysay Ave., one Vinzons St., University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City on July 15, Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For questions call 922-60-26; 426-59-30; 922-29-34; 921-65-15 or 0917-89-29-66.

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LIFESTYLE
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'Hot' issues around National Artist Award

By Amado Mia Guerrero
Contributor

WHAT IS THE significance, if any, of the National Artist Award to the youth? Are the students aware of who the National Artists this year are? Is the hand of politics always present here? Why are regional writers dropped from the final deliberations?

These were among the "hot" issues swirling around the latest "Hiraya Talakayan," a monthly forum of the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Present were National Artist for Literature Bienvenido Lumbera and National Artist for Film Ishmael Bernerro. Reading Lord and Lilian Barcelon of the CCP served as panelists, with Ed Calingasan of the CCP Pilipa Division moderating.

Addressing the students (mostly from Philippine Normal University), Jessel asked if the National Artist Award was relevant to them.

One student admitted that "it was not introduced to us why this award is important and who these National Artists are." Another student said that "we have been overwhelmed by the new technology. How we have an idea of our responsibilities (as literary readers) to introduce the importance of this award."

Was the hand of politics present in the award to action star Fernando Poe Jr. and to the Tausug sculptor Abdul Mari Imao?

Was the hand of politics present in the award to action star Fernando Poe Jr. and to the Tausug sculptor Abdul Mari Imao?

Lumbera, in response, said "Liam ... we may politicize," but in the case of Poe, "it was the FAP (Film Academy of the Philippines) which initiated the move, so under how Malacañang felt... it couldn't be stopped anyway. So there's no political considerations in that."

What a long process, the joint boards of the CCP and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) selected six names (out of 301 nominees) and sent three to Malacañang this year. The Palace approved the six, and added a seventh name — Imao.

"Imao did not lobby for the award and he is deserving," declared Jessel. There was no quarrel with that, as the accomplishments of the Muslim sculptor spoke for themselves.

Lumbera called attention to another issue: Those who are not in their native regional languages — he cited the case of outstanding Sinugbo poet Magdalena Jalandoni — often do not make it to the final deliberations, because the people in the committee don't know their works ("dahil iton di kilala ng mga taong nasa committee").

Ernil Cruz Santiago, the National Artist for Literature said, the nomination process will not be truly national, as the finalists are often those who write in English or Tagalog.

In fact the critics outside Manila, Lumbera added, they usually write in English and they are mostly even outside Filipinos (apart Manila"), "which is mostly Western norm, the culture of thinking way and Pinoy. They do not know the culture of the Philippines."

Art, Lumbera stressed, is not an activity for one's self. It is something that should be shared with your

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AT THE CULTURAL Center, a colorful program pays tribute to new National Artists Bienvenido Lumbera (Literature), Benedicto Cabrera (Painting), Ramon Obusan (Dance), Abdulmari Asia Imao (Sculpture), Bryan Lhamayon (representing his deceased grandfather, Fernando Poe Jr., for Film), Ildefonso Santos Jr. (Architecture) and Lucille de Vera (Zarzuela) (representing her deceased brother, Ramon Vera, for Fashion Design).

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Bacolod as music country

By Pablo R. Tarroza
Contributor

A concert by Reynaldo Reyes and Ingrid Santamaria shows how the South breathes music

OLIVER Salonga with Bianca Hernandez (second from right) and other music scholars of the Philippine High School for the Arts

ONE FRIDAY NIGHT LAST month, I found myself in Bacolod, listening to the post-concert open forum of the 12th "Romantic Piano Concerto Journey" of pianists Ingrid Xalo Santamaria and Reynaldo Reyes.

The forum was held in an ovulation hall of Sacred Heart Seminary. After excerpts from the Rachmaninoff, Brahms and Beethoven concertos, the audience —consisting mostly of young seminarists and music lovers from Bacolod—had a full serving of the Schumann A Minor concerto.

The concert opened with Mallover's "Star Fields," sung with heroic fervor (and propelled by Thai Hero Tan).

The post-concert reactions varied. One said the music brought him to another world, another said the music allowed him to look into himself with detachment.

Seminary rector Fr. Jerry Montano said music was just another way of making us feel about God's presence. Msgr. Guillermo Gaston Lonsala of the first and last Filipino rectors of consequence, Cornelius Tambird agreed that music should be part of everyone's gamut.

After the concert, there was audition to renew in piano playing and Reyes gave everyone hope by saying a great pianist actually managed his first recital at age 50.

On that same day in between rehearsals and performances, I visited Father Hood where in the '50s I incurred concerts for Emilio Lizad, Antonio Menzon, Andrew Bernardo, Bobby Mirasol, Danjel Rotaria, Joseph Bonilla.

The hotel brought back many musical memories to. I must say Bacolod is a city that lovers music.

I got the urge to visit Bacolod for the first time when I saw the Prepe College film "Oro, Plata, Mata," which featured operatic arias in its crucial scenes.

And so I joined a Manila Symphony tour of Bacolod under conductor Gilligan Rabuyan playing the Liszt concerto with Damian Esbrayat as a feisty soloist in the mid-'80s. While there, I checked possible concert venues.

I always like staying in the penthouse home of Carmen Kilayko, whose late doctor husband was a cellist. When Mrs. Kilayko heard Brazilian cellist Antonio Menezes for the first time in Bacolod, she profusely thanked me not just for the music but for the cello which allowed her to recall happy musical days with her late husband.

I wondered why I felt so close to this Kilayko garden house. At one moment Mr. Kilayko caught me staring in another room of the house, she pointed out: "That room was where soprano Helen Tauler stayed when she performed in Bacolod in the early '50s."

Tauler happened to be one of the greatest Wagnerian sopranos to appear in the home-town opera scene.

When I heard a 1949 version of duenitro recording of mezzo soprano Conchita Gaston in May City many years back, I fell in love with the voice. No wonder I named Bernardo's only third boy.

I met and heard Lu Gaston briefly in 1988 when she was nominated to our and the Romanian diva Stella Mirrocou by the late music-loving lawyer, Hermenio Feliciano.

When I dropped by briefly at the Bacolod Cathedral, I recalled a dying Conchita Gaston trying to thank Cardinal's Jaro Archbishop with the remaining vocal strength she had but in vain. She collapsed, and a few months later, she passed away in the arms of her husband on the veranda of her Hacienda Villa. It was death reminiscent of "La Traviata."

I brought baritone Andrew Fernando to Our Lady of Mercedes in the late '90s. This was before his salon with La Opera and the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts.

Santamaria and Reyes also capped their successful journey in Negros in their historic Silay Museum last week. What was interesting was the presence of non-child offenders in the audience. Indeed, Msgr. Gaston was determined to bring music not just to the well-off but also to the socially marginalized.

My musical journey in Bacolod reminded me of Ada, when two-time Manila Symphony Guest Conductor Gilligan Rabuyan, Prokofiev and Chopin at the La Perse Ballroom of Diplomat Hotel.

Indonesian first solo recital at the Philam Life last week was showered by critics and music lovers alike. "A really amazing pianist!" said Ms. Maria Amorsolo Lim-Asis, head of the College of Music and Performing Arts.

"There is no doubt this young Salonga will go very far as a pianist," said BT Manalo, father of filmmaker Joyce Manalo.

For tickets to the Salonga concert in Bacolod City, call 09087025 or 0908-5084279.

Here and there

Young Filipino cellist Victor Michael Lee is always in demand in music festivals abroad. He last came back from the Santander Music Festival. Next week, he returns to Pontevedra in France for another festival engagement. He might come back to Manila in December for a solo recital.

Tenor Daniel Gonzaga will have a concert with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra on Saturday, Dec. 9, at the Philam Film Theater. It is called "Christmas Spectacular with Daniel Gonzaga." He will team up for the first time with conductor Noel Cabangon.

To get early ticket discount, call 09087025 or 0908-5084279.

CONCHITA Gastonwith Leonard Bernstein in 1956

'Death and the Maiden' to be staged amid political killings

ACTORS ACTING INC. (AAI) HEADS ARIEL Dorfman's "Death and the Maiden" with Dan Gargoza, Michael Williams and Shiela Guingon, directed by Soxie Topacio, from Aug. 4-6, at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza.

Dorfman's "Death and the Maiden" is a thriller about Paulina Escobar, who believes the stranger who comes to her home is the doctor who, under a military dictatorship, tortured and raped her many years before. Paulina loved the musical piece by Franz Schubert called "Death and the Maiden," but grew to revile it when it was played repeated-ly by the torturer-murderer with the doctor.

As the tension builds over the later's alleged ill-gotten wealth.

"Death and the Maiden," originally in Spanish, has been translated into numerous languages and performed around the world.

In light of the recent spate of prisoners' suicides at the Guantanamo Bay facility, the play seems not to have lost any of its power and relevance today.

The play, on its own, is a gripping, universal examination of the psychological repercussions of state-sponsored terror. It derives its power from its taut, well-paced structure, and sharply drawn characters.

The idea for mounting "Death and the Maiden" was first brought up by Music Innovations. Feeling the need to stretch herself as an artist, the first appointed director Bart Guingona, making him to recommend a challenging role that she might study.

Guingona, however for his interview and travel-agent productions, pointed out that studying a role was incomplete without it being performed before an audience. He then style neared how the hotel Dorfman's script, recruited Michael Williams into the project, and appointed some rehearsals, performances into their collective schedules.

Dorfman is making her commercial theatrical debut in "Death and the Maiden." She takes on the role originally played by Glenn Close on Broadway, which won Close the Tony Award for Best Actress, and was essayed by Sigourney Weaver in the Roman Polanski-directed film version.

The character of Paulina is intense, driven and intelligent. The play revolves around Paulina's revenge upon those who had abused her. It is the kind of drama role that actresses would love to sink their chops into, and Dorfman is no exception.

She has plunged into rehearsals like fish to water, fully lending her active intelligence and innate confidence to the role. Having spent many years in the theater before moving over to television where she has earned much fame, she has made it a point to keep coming back to the theater to hone her craft, recognizing it as the true actor's medium.

Guingona, apart from directing the production, also plays Paulina's husband Gerardo (originally played by Richard Dreyfuss on Broadway) while Williams takes on the pivotal role of Roberto (originally played by Gene Hackman on Broadway, Sun-Cinema in the movie).

AAI's "Death and the Maiden" will be staged for only one weekend at the Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza, Ayala cor. Gil Puyat Avenues, Makati. Performance dates are Aug. 4-5, 8 p.m., and Aug. 5-6, 3 p.m.

Tickets are available at Ticketworld, call 891-9999 or text 0917-5289546.

BART Guingona, Rissie Escalante and Michael Williams in Ariel Dorfman's "Death and the Maiden"

ESCALANTE and Guingona

UST Philets cites 'Gulong ng Palad' writer, other outstanding alumni

FIVE OUTSTANDING GRADUates of the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters (now Faculty of Arts and Letters) of the University of Santo Tomas will be honored at its annual reunion on July 8 at the Quezon City Sports Club.

The five members will receive Golden Dad medals from former Information minister and press secretary Cesy Conda and Evelyn Sebastian-Aplaya, chair and secretary of the Philets Foundation Inc.

The Philets Foundation Inc. presents the Golden Dad Award to alumni who excelled in their respective fields of expertise.

This year's awardees are Hilaria Cristina Bautista, Lolita Flores Virtus, Portia S. Almario, Rey M. Dulu and Virgilio C. Binding.

Bautista, a member of Class '46, will receive the Golden Dad Award for print journalism in recognition of her perceptive columns and essays in the weekly magazine of the Bicolano Community in Philippines Herald, Manila Times and Taliba, and publications in Seminalo, her second home.

Virtus, Class '55, is recognized as a broadcast columnist, cause for her consistent award winning scripts for outstanding radio and television programs, such as "Gulong ng Palad," "Home Along da Bliss" and "Home Along da Airport," and "Hay de Luna."

Almario, Class '54, is awarded for her dedicated service to overseas Filipino workers through the Good Shepherd apostolate and to fisherfolks-tagged persons through her leadership of the Iloilo Business program of the Christian Socio-Development.

Binay, Class '65, is recognized for investment banking and his support for humanitarian causes.

Mailing of Classes '55 and '56 is another for reunions. A postgraduate degree holder from University of North Dakota, he has been visiting professor at several American and Asian universities.

He was training consultant of the Philippine Press Institute, dean of the Asian Institute Journalism and Communication, founding director of Philippine Information Agency, head of Communications, and professor at the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

Mailing has written 20 books on communication and is currently working on another book. He is considered the father of development communication in the Philippines.

Peplan chaired the reviewing committee for the Golden Dad Award, with Ma. Luisa Zuzuarregui, Rogelio Bolipata, Ramon Ongpaga, Milagros Ancheta, Vicente del Fierro Jr. and Alice Colet-Villanueva as members.

Call Cristalia, 8393338, Eli Cleto, 8323513; Peplim, 5208826; Bobay, 8477656; and Binayugan, 8471254.

'Virgin Labfest' at CCP

THE CULTURAL CENTER OF the Philippines Tanghalang Pilipino and the Writer's Bloc, in cooperation with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, are mounting the second edition of "Virgin Labfest," a festival of unpublished and unstaged works, on July 7-16, at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Batute.

The "Virgin Labfest" 2 features 13 new plays culled from the yearlong regular series of readings by the Writer's Bloc, and penned by new playwrights.

On July 7 at 8 p.m., three new works are featured.

On July 8 at 1 and 8 p.m., three previously staged plays on people slowly losing their minds will be presented. "Pepeta," an adaptation of Arvi Lloud Jose short story ("Pinapeta"); Allann Encanto's "First Snow of November," the Palanca-winning adaptation of Bienvenido N. Santos' "The Day the Dancers Came"; and Rody Vera's "Ang Unang Aswang." The following Sipat Lawin ensemble and J. Williams Herbert Sigmund Go-direct those plays.

People in pairs are featured in a trilogy on July 9 at 3 and 8 p.m.: Layeta Bueno's "Ang Anak ni Cleta," directed by Soxie Topacio; Bryan Sy's "Magamba Pa ang Langit," directed by George de Jesus III; and J. Dennis Teodoro's "Mga Sakit," directed by Catherine Racuya.

On July 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. is a set of plays about people caught in desperate situations: Nicolas Pichay's "Ina ninyong de Guzman," directed by Vincent de Jesus; Rody Vera's "The Return of Flor," directed also by Jesus; and Jose O. Villanueva's "Isang Dakilang Mamamayan ng Republika," directed by Regina Reyes-Pichay.

Plays highlighting hope will be showcased on July 15 at 3 and 8 p.m.: Debbie Ann Tan's "Dragon's Breath," directed by Soxie Topacio; Jeb Pagsibigan's "The Palanca in the Island," directed by Rechie Valdez; and Nol de Mesa's "Pag-usa Pag-Usisa," directed by Rem Benesto.

On July 16 at 3 and 8 p.m. is a trio of plays on sex: Jose Magsaysay's "Hubad," directed by Denise Reyes; J. Dennis Teodoro's "Pag-ibig Bilis," directed by Phil Tiglao; and Angel Tuazon's "Gabi-gabi Hali," directed by Rolando Inocencio.

The Virgin Labfest 2 features some of the country's most brilliant theatrical from Soxie Topacio, Catherine Racuya, Rem Cabangon, Tuhay, Dulaang Sipat Lawin, and Tanghalang Pilipino.

Tickets are at P350. Call Tanghalang Pilipino at 8323611, 8321125 locals 1328/1533, 09209333383, or Ticketworld at 891-9999.

'Hot' issues around National Artist Award

From page 12

billionaires, billion Filipinos ("Filipino Pilipinos").

Jessel noted with some dismay that there were only a handful of shows devoted to the Visayas and Mindanao. He advised these "to find out what's cooking, you may be from the South...and connect with and listen to those roots and then this [National Artist Award] will be an inspiration for all of you. This award is not just announced, you know."

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo confers the 2006 Order of National Artist for Sculpture on Abdulmari Imao Imao at the awarding ceremony in Malacañang

Tina Santos, a gem of Philippine ballet, comes home

The multi-awarded Pinay dance educator in the US has held homecoming ballet classes for young Filipino dance aspirants

By Clarissa Pilipiro
Contributor

IN 1968, THERE WAS A REsonance in classical ballet in the Philippines, after a 10-year hiatus that almost caused the demise of this beautiful art. And in the midst of this reawakening was an 18-year-old emerging ballerina, the tall and lithe Tina Santos.

She was the gem of the newly formed Dance Theater Philippines, founded by the triumvirate of Jojo Soriano, Tita Babiá and Eddie Elejar.

Danish ballet master Poul Gnatt guided the company for its first program at the Rizalista Theater (that was before the CCP had been built by Imelda Marcos). He followed the format and program which he also used in establishing the Royal New Zealand Ballet a decade before, including lecture demonstrations in schools, aside from theater performances in Metro Manila and the provinces.

After Gnatt's guest stint in Dance Theater Philippines, the three young founders, Jojo, Tita and Eddie, committed of an entirely Philippine ballet program. And it was inevitable that Tina Santos would play a central role as its youngest and most talented ballerina.

She was cast as soloist in Soriano's "Tarpeian" and "Balinjan"; in Fuchs's comedy ballet "Tanan," where she was in her element as an arrows-dancer. She also danced a lead role in Elejar's "Subanjanita," an exotic ballet based on a Muslim myth.

In one of their outings in Mindanao, in the Muslim village Tatungoloy, Zamboanga, Tina Santos gave an impromptu performance in the plaza after the company watched the local Muslim dance troupe touch his regular afternoon class for children and teenagers. Tina started with a little balletic dance, then went on to do a little jazz and ended up with "a-go-go" that sent the village audience into excited applause.

That is Tina Santos—artiste, dancer, comedienne, all rolled into a one for life. Aside from being a ballerina, she also appeared on television, on the stage, on magazine covers and in musical theater productions.

She is married to former dance partner Gary Pahl and has a daughter, Nikki, who is a scholar at the Florida State University's Music Theater Program. Tina resides in Miami, Florida, where she is a celebrated dance teacher.

Tina began her professional career in dance here in the Philippines. She received under the watchful eyes of Aji Felix, Lionel Gobrel, Babiá and Gnatt, and, in 1968, became a founding member of Dance Theater Philippines.

Tina joined the Harkness Ballet of New York in 1970 as a member of the corps and was promoted to soloist six months later. She extensively toured Europe and the USA with the company and this bolstered her status in the Harkness Ballet.

She and her husband joined the San Francisco Ballet as principal dancers in 1972. Tina was well-known for her versatility on stage. Critics commended her for her acting skills and her virtuosic dance technique. She could shift effortlessly from comic to dramatic roles and was technically competent in classical ballet, Balanchine ballets, jazz and modern/contemporary.

Top US dance educator

Tina was elected as one of the 18 Outstanding Young Women of California in 1978, and awarded a Medal of Distinction by Dance by the Manila Commission on Arts and Culture the following year.

In the '80s, Tina taught students and professional dancers in major schools in the San Francisco Bay Area before she became a freelance faculty of the Hartt Conservatory in Boca Raton, South Florida. Marcelo Gomes, now a principal dancer of American Ballet Theater, was her student at Hartt Conservatory.

She is a full-time faculty member of the New World School of the Arts in Miami.

Having studied with ballet masters of varying systems such as Gsovsky (Danish), David Howard, Ben Stevenson, Tony Westmoreland and Kathleen Crofton (British); Betty Bruce and Corkett, Richard Ellston, Thelma Cusmerova, Alexander Metz (Russian); and Lew Christensen (Balanchine), Tina has developed her own style of teaching that emphasizes purity of movement and sensuous technique. A Dance Magazine critic described her dances as "energetic, musical, passionate, simple and pensive."

She has won five Teacher Recognition Excellence sponsored by the National Foundation for the Advancement of the Arts (1996-1999 and 2003-2004). She has served in the Florida State Division of Cultural Affairs as its Dance Organizations Panel and was an Ovation Invitation for Miami City Ballet. Tina listens to no honorees in the Who's Who among American Teachers in 2004.

Rare Manila visit

Tina Santos was in Manila for several weeks in June, conducting master classes requested by the National Ballet Syllabus Inc., with the help of NBS teachers' examiner Violeta Velasco. The classes were held in Metropolitan Theater, one floor studios at Rizal Conservatory.

Tina Santos was packed with dancers from several dance schools including scholars of the CCP School of Dance, students of Ines Lopez-Gonzales (Miriam), Chelo Barcenas-Gerrino and the Cagwaid School of Ballet (Paranaque).

The young ballet dancers enjoyed Santos' style of teaching. She was witty and humorous when giving corrections and instructions. She was very particular with the dancers' use of music. She gave exercises with simple steps and tricky musical accents to develop the dancers' musicality.

Santos was also emphatic that the students not only execute the combination but also to really "dance" them. She stressed that the class should already be a performance.

Aside from ballet technique, Tina Santos shared with the young dancers her love and passion for dance. She gave home in the US with these dancers looking up in her to now as a role model. Wherever she goes she announces that she is proud to be Filipino.

Tina Santos has been invited to be an international examiner for the Philippine National Ballet Syllabus authored by Fidel, Socorro Jamalon and Willi Saniano.

TINA SANTOS on the cover of the Sunday Times Magazine on the week when married her was declared in 1972 (above). The issue never got out. (Below) It is US ballet magazine special

Lay evangelist Bo Sanchez in concert

TELEVISION PERSONality and Catholic lay evangelist Bo Sanchez is turning 40. Join him in his birthday comedy concert, "BoTeks," at the Meralco Theater on July 8, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Through the concert, Bo is raising P3 million for the Assurian Scholarship Fund for poor children, the Seryang Gerard Ralinga Village in Mandaluyong, and the Couto Pentecostal Nu Street Kids.

Joining Sanchez in the concert are Kerygma preachers Mike Joseph, Arvin Gupta, Alvin Barcelona, Dhel Cabral-las, Jun Encena, Adrian Dungo, Indiana and Raisa Bergano.

You can learn more about "BoTeks" by visiting Bo's website at www.bosanchez.com.

BO SANCHEZ

Satellites, coins/buttons. You can even buy tickets from the website—and print it there, too. Or call 7229962 or e-mail bocoach@pldtdsl.net.com.

Mr. & Ms-July provides health tips

ARE YOU HEALTHY?

That is the question that Mr. & Ms pours in its special issue on health this July.

The July issue emphasizes the relationship of body, mind and spirit to fully realize true fitness.

Do you have a peaceful mind? Are you enjoying the benefits of a fit body? Are you reaping the advantages of a clean spirit? Mr. & Ms. as the Dionysian assembly of the fitness, mind and spirit, helps you answer all these questions.

Here are some tips to achieve a fit and related body.

Try walking! Everyone benefits from fitness walking. It is great for everyone, even for those already fit. Walking is one of the safest ways to condition your body, lose excess pounds, reduce stress and boost energy. You may even meet new friends! Read more about the advantages of this underrated aerobic exercise in the July issue.

Heard the benefits of Tai Chi. Tai Chi has both physical and psychological health benefits. For over 1,000 years, Tai Chi has been the secret of some Chinese families for having a long life. In order to achieve the same, start doing the martial art, Tai Chi.

Find relaxation in the form of water. A wonderful spa in the metropolis features hydrotherapy treatments such as pool and jet showers that soothe those tired muscles. Did you know that water has special powers in rejuvenation by calming the lungs, heart, stomach and endocrine system by stimulating nerve reflexes on the spinal cord? Water therapy is all one needs to achieve relaxation.

Be headed using alternative medicines. A panel of doctors possesses the advantages of healing in a not-so-usual way. Using homeopathic medicines and alternative therapies, patients of the clinic are encouraged by the relief and hope they receive.

Seek the magic of thyme. The spicy herb offers a variety of benefits. Thyme is effective for colic, flatulence, sore throats, colds and it serves as a digestive aid. Mr. & Ms offers more information on thyme, plus recipes.

Watch your thoughts and personal illnesses. "Since we came on earth illnesses, we can cure heal ourselves... by changing the mental patterns that created our illness," says Louise Hay, author of Heal Your Body. A positive thought invites good physical vibes. Mr. & Ms invites you to start the optimism and discard the negativism.

Top celebrities Kris Aquino and Bea Alonzo encourage everyone to start moving and start drinking... lots of water, that is. The two stay ballet schools: the Fashion School of Classical Ballet in DIY, Quezon City; Sofia Elizalde's Kenya Dance Studio in Makati; and at the Ballet Cruz School of Dance along Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

share some tips on how they have lost their unwanted pounds. Aside from the sexy, buffed and beautiful men—Piolo Pascual, Mikoy Morales and rapper Danny Bolobosa—reveal the secret to their healthy glow.

Other features are on Tuna curls, acne Aga Muhlach in color, and Dr. Dominic de Guzman and the first Dominicans.

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LIFESTYLE

Flores de Fatima

"BOUQUET for You"

"BLOOM"

"SHOUT! Red and Sensation"

By Jessica Johanson-Rebillon
Contributor

CARNATIONS BURSTING WITH BLOOMS without predatory wandering thrips to pesticides chicken, their paint throbbing, possibly the visual metaphor for a storied Biblical romance swirling terrifyingly, or even calming and invigorating.

Such is the impression a viewer may get from the works of Fatima dresses that are featured in "Floral Effloresce," which opens on July 5, 6 p.m. at Gallery Blanc (tel. 4077502; 0193 Megamall).

Fatima Asunto Baquiran has the art gene in her, being the daughter of distinguished artists Angelito Antonio and Norma Belleza.

Like her parents, Fatima studied at the history College of Architecture and Fine Arts (now College of Fine Arts and Design of University of Santo Tomas, earning a degree in Interior Design in 1982. She began painting soon after college, almost immediately after giving birth to her first child. It could be said that art is the twin of her firstborn, and she has continued both since.

Quiet and unassuming like her mother, Fatima is flustered when cut to and viewers note the similarity of her works to theirs. "Everyone, Norma Belleza you," Or course! That's Norma Belleza's, she said. She admires her mom's works, particularly their composition.

FIGURES

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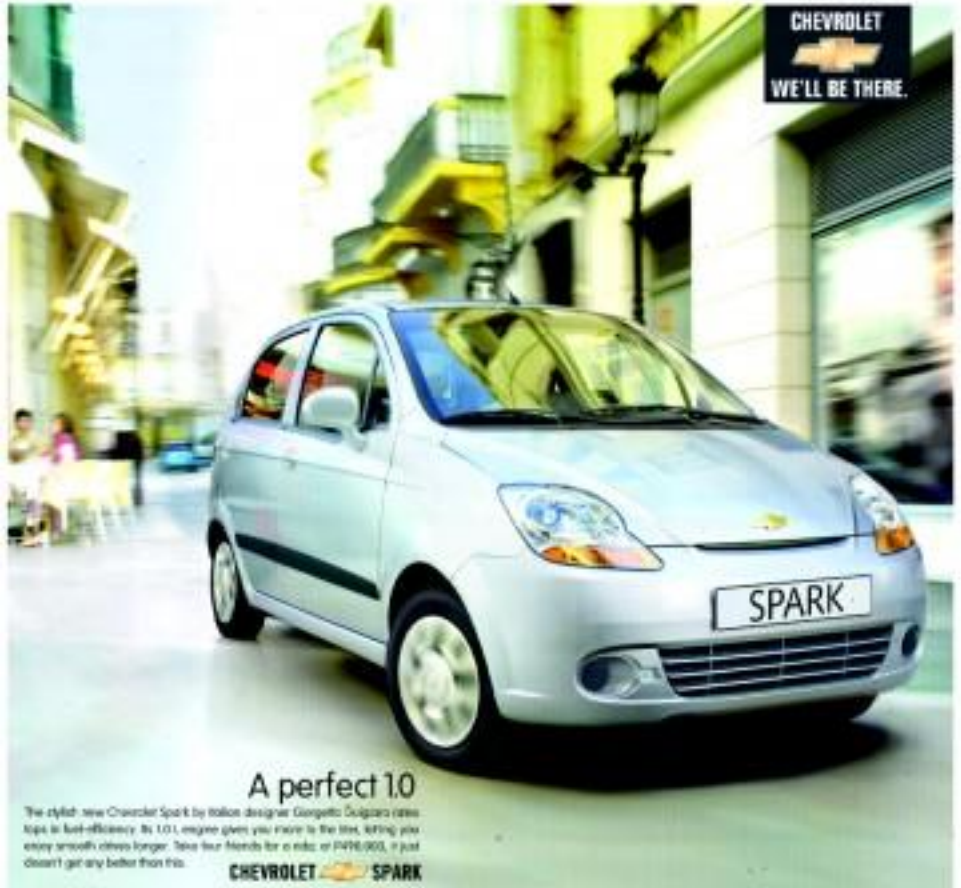

"FILIPIANA: White Temples II"

"GOLDEN Temples"

"PERFORMERS: Two jugglers and a Musician"

Luz's 1995-2005 works on exhibit

A MAJOR EXHIBIT OF WORKS by National Artist Arturo Luz opens on 7 p.m., July 12, at The Gallery of Fabric in Greenhills Mall.

Thirty-six paintings done by Luz from 1995-2005 will be on exhibit. Titled "Temples, performers and Cities of the Past," the show mainly features paintings on three themes.

Luz started working on his "Temples" series after he went to 1988 on an extended trip to the Indian subcontinent, where he was impressed by its physical beauty. There he saw literally hundreds of Buddhist and Hindu temples.

What he found quite interesting were the architectural forms of stupas which, like their counterparts, the pagoda, are spiritual monuments designed to symbolize the enlightened mind and the path to its realization.

"Cities of the Past" came from his visits to sites of ancient civilizations in Asia such as Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Borobudur, the ancient capital of the Shailendrah empire in Indonesia, and Sukhothai, the ancient Thai capital in the 13th-14th century.

Located near Wat Rawa, sukhothai literally means The Dawn of Happiness.

Built in the 13th century, Angkor Wat was the epitome of the high classical style of Khmer architecture. It was Cleo a Hindu then a Buddhist religious center. Borobudur, in the Indonesian province of Central Java, is a Buddhist stupa related to the Mahayana tradition and is the largest Buddhist monument on earth.

The exhibit is in anticipation of the 80th birthday of Lee on Nov. 10. Luz was granted the National Artist award to the Philippines in 1997.

Noted for his lyrical, geometric abstractions, Luz was born in 1926 in Manila. He went to the University of Santo Tomas School of Fine Arts, drew recieved scholarship at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland for a three-year diploma in art program. He continued his education in the Brooklyn Museum Art School in New York in 1950 and at the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere in Paris in 1951.

Luz is recognized worldwide, having mounted several exhibitions abroad. He is three-time First Prize winners at the Art Association of the Philippines Annual Competitions.

He also received scholarship grants from Spain in 1953, Italy in 1955, and the United States in 1963. He is also the recipient of the Republic Cultural Heritage Award for Painting in 1966, the Fuentebay-ng Bathaw-gan Award for Painting from the City of Manila in 1981; and the Cultural Centre of the Philippines' General for the Visual Arts in 1989.

He was awarded the Order of Chevalier des Arts et Lettres by the French government in 1970.

"CITIES of the Past II"

"PERFORMERS: Two jugglers"

"VARIATIONS on a Jugger Theme"

Portrait of desire

By Constantino C. Tejero

JUST MENTION THE WORD SEX and there is sure to be a rush to see what's going on.

The gallery-goer, however, was somewhat unprepared for what Arwen Serrano and Elmer Borlio had to share in their joint exhibit "Sighang (Jar)," 19 pieces in oil on canvas, recently in The Crucible Gallery at the Artwork, L-6, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Both products of the University of the Philippines College of Fine Arts, with Serrano majoring in Painting and Borlio in Visual Communications, these young artists are realists with representative tendencies. In this exhibit, they have demonstrated they're up to the world of sensuality.

In a series of line drawings each, Serrano and Borlio have artfully obtained the sexual act in cramped rooms of cheap motels, in a world of dark street, guilty secrets and one-night stands, so that what's supposed to be an expression of intimacy and affection becomes ugly, almost repugnant.

We don't know whether these are married couples, strangers, DOMs and their habit, or pulpot and their prostitutes. We just sense that, the way it is depicted by Serrano and Borlio, what they're doing is not right or proper.

Act of voyeurism

She fears tampering with the sexual act with portraits and poses so what it becomes of someone nearby and hard. core porn are wont to do, the less setting depict it so what it really is and is meant to making it look banal—as that the viewer stands dumbfounded between frustration and repulsion.

Although no genitalia is shown, not even a strand of pubic hair, and with only a point of breast or nipple as a sign of engagement or love, the gallery-goer wants what is taper from guilt or shame. Because the artists have forced the viewer to play the voyeur.

Then eyes quiet nothing. Their probing in such that what is private becomes public. And sometimes the subjects themselves play accomplices to the act of voyeurism.

In Serrano's "Sorsogon," rendered in cold metallic gray, the squinting young softness to the ceiling mirror take on a ghostly color of their sexual acrobatics.

In Borlio's "Halika," to Rome and a hairy stranger, the frontal groping is nothing in so to your face the viewer is sure to take a breath and refocus look away.

In Serrano's "Short Time," two n

"SOLVENOR," by Serrano

"SHE LANG ang Pahinga," by Serra

"PAKNOK," by Enrique Silvestre

"KUAPHASTA," by Tahimik

"BINTH Pains," by Tahimik

"SCENE," by Tahimik

Woman as goddess and as abstraction

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

TWO CONTEMPORARY FILIPINO artists working along nonrepresenting genres have, by coincidence, chosen an identical theme for their solo shows, both also opening the first week of July.

Jose Martinez, born in a town near Bacolod, but has since lived in the Big City, pays homage to the goddesses that inhabit our local myths and legends.

Enrique Talmeina, on the other hand, is a leading advertising agency in the Middle East, depicts the iconic woman in her surrealist moods and chants.

An impressionist best known for his endearing work in watercolor, Martinez provides the iron-cohesive name "Myths and Legends of the Philippines" its essential character through his art works. Most of his pieces are in oil on canvas, and a few are in watercolor, both with hardly any distinction in treatment, save perhaps for the size. He is ambidextrous in either medium.

Removing the image out of a well-known tale has its pitfalls, such as having to be unabashedly literal in illustration.

Jose Martinez, given his sense of delicacy and control, knows how to provide the quintessential spirit to the narratives in the image of the evening jewelries princess in "The Goddess of the Palawan" to that of "Rajah Sulaiman and Princess Dayli," the artist wields firm control of his medium in driving home a number of key themes.

Martinez has done similar stuff for several publications, but this particular book (published by Marlene Aguilar) lauds touches of local color, not to mention the artist's predilection for long-maned tones, an added asset in his figurative.

There is also his impressively dynamic brushwork, which was present in his previous illustrations of farm animals, such as the calendar published by Mental Philippines. It is a style that blends and blissfully with the narrative, showing granularity or unsentimentalism.

This theme of Martinez' works, which, by the way coincides with the formal launching of the book, will be at the Amo Filgima Gallery on the ground floor of Ayala Center in Bacolod City.

"THE GODDESS of Palawan," by Jun Martinez

The collection will have its final exhibit at Nielsen Art Gallery, Unit 2, G/F, Chan Gil Garcia St., Capitol Site, Cebu City.

In Manila, the show at Metro Gallery, at 30 B Bautista, beside Cafe Ysabel, coincides with the re-launching of "Myths and Legends of the Philippines."

Women in abstraction

Enrique Talmeina's "Women Is in the Details" (Santa Gallery, 2310 E. Garcia St., Bel-Air Village, Makati) consists of 20 oil paintings in the artist's quasi-abstract-cubism style.

The show focuses on the richly varied interpretations of women's images in sacred moods and evolving personas.

Born in Batangas, Talmeina has developed a painter both rich and unconventional in its approach. He attended the University of Santo Tomas, majoring in Advertising Arts, and graduated in 1988.

The influence of Surrealist Artist Yves Tanguy on Talmeina is evident in the transcendent forms and reverse hidden images that dominate his canvases.

Talmeina has an exuberant color sense. Exploring every known facet of the prism, he experiments with colorations and its relation to moods and emotions.

In what ostensibly is his best composition in the show, "Scent," Talmeina cleverly plays with the figure, making it up like the entire piece of a figure puzzle.

The way he conceals and exposes bits and pieces of the composition may recall Kandinsky and Chagall, though he adopts living room fascinated by the works of M. C. Escher, who upholds the supremacy of color for its own sake.

But the many other pieces in a show that celebrates 15 years of Talmeina's art engagement are no less eminent, with their multi-image delineations and fine color aesthetics.

E-mail author at ginodormiendo@yahoo.com

ON VIEW until July 15 at Arellano Art Gallery in Subic, Arbor's "Why I Am Not a Painter." Titled after a Frank O'Hara poem, the exhibit explores the narrative journeys of the artist into the malevolent-minded realm of abstraction, line and color and how this, oscillating between the certainty of thought and gut-feel, comes up with an array of forms—airplanes, faces, injured pronouns—that dutifully map experience with reflection. Arellano Art Gallery is at A-15, 3401/B, Harrison St., Pasay City (Evening Quiet Academy), Call [illegible].

"[illegible] Mo," by Jovian Sarmiento

"TRIANA," by Elmer Borlaza

"[illegible]," by Borlaza

"[illegible]," by Sarmiento

plex are depicted in various sexualizations: a female on the level. Only the lighting, perspective and visual composition redeem a scene like pornography.

Horse or bratchel

In Borlaza's "Iris," at least, the nude and woman remember to stick their backs to the audience while doing their thing. And in Sarmiento's "Kapagan Ho," similar to imagery and composition in "Hour Time," the artist is distanced to shot the cavalcading figures are barely recognizable.

Some of these are ok portraits. Borlaza's "Sadista," partially showing a bedroom, dryness and toilet, is amusing on the title to more refer a house to a place of orientation.

In his "Electrifying Hop," the couple's ostensibly passionate face and embrace take on a different meaning when the viewer senses that, while the artist's eyes are blissfully closed, the woman's are wide open, probably seeing another man.

Sarmiento's "Virgin" shows working but lends a cooler light to multiple stars in reflection. She looks chaste and sees blood stains on the white sheet of cardboard.

In his "Dei Lang ang Pilipinas," a man takes a couple from sex he will, taking closer to the side.

Sweat and afterglow

There is poignancy in Borlaza's depiction of a couple after sex in "Tanghalan." With Iris's naked wondrously, he is holding a bottle of beer while she is resting on her cell phone. One can't be sure whether they're talking, are exhausted, or glad bored. The afterglow can be found only in the low, low orange light on the wall.

Both artists demonstrate a strong narrative bent. Borlaza employs natural, visual composition, pessimism-type lighting and warm hermetic, while Sarmiento uses complex perspectives, unusual angles and moody cool colors.

In each piece, both have drawn themselves to be accomplished colorists: in the lurid neon colors, dramatic-colored highlights, comb tones, chiefly in monochromes. Sarmiento's exhibition is the artist's introduction to whole story, while Borlaza's one-two-time has a salon.

It is such expressive use of color that infiltrates exposes this world of sweaty sexuality and hard-breathing desire.

The artists may seem scant for wrapping text of its surrogate, but they can't help it: it's just as evidently science of an all.

Art auction for women's health programs

SCHERING PHILIPPINE CORP. AND THE Philippine Obstetrics and Gynecology Society (POGS) are holding the art exhibition-auction "Women to All-Star Colors," featuring 39 paintings by Vivian Mercado and nine other Angono artists.

The paintings will be auctioned off during the exhibit and award celebration of POGS on July 6 at the Hotel Philippine Plaza (formerly known Philippine Plaza).

The artworks will be open to public viewing 8 a.m.–4 p.m. at the lobby of the grand ballroom. A live auction follows 6:45 p.m. Proceeds will fund the various women's projects of POGS.

"I am female on an older woman," said internationally "Women, or women, a star in the shampoo or body concern: it's not superficial, it's sound knowledge."

Other artists in the exhibit are Arsi Aparicio, Jessie Andrew, Joyce Tamon, Paulo Antonio, Jose Lerma, Joyce Magpayo, Jing Joson, Paul Dominguez and Elsie Peñaco.

ANGONG artist Nani Mercado

Amoncio and Espiritu go 'One on One'

NEIL AMONCIO AND JUN ESPIRITU ARE building a joint exhibit, "One on One," which marks the anniversary of Galeria Fernando at the lower level of Casa Roces, Cara Nicolas Bldg., Kalaayan Avenue (beside Rolling Texas Grocer).

Both artists depict similar scenes and themes, but Espiritu's works are characterized by light and bright hues and arched brass chin-strait in favor with pursued hairheads. They contrast with, yet complement, Amoncio's works featuring women with prominent chins and pointed in sturdy colors.

The show is extended until July 8. Call 8900060 or 0920-2-88018.

"DOUBLE Horned," by Felix Resurrección

ART closer now is along the perimeter walls

THE WORKS can also stand apart in a kaleidoscope of established colors.

Eye-catching spectacle in center of commerce

GEOMETRIC shapes characterize Valisa Urbano's work under the geometrics of nature.

ALONG THE PARKWAY of the soon-to-rise Greenbelt 5, bordered by luggage throat and the inner courtyards and covered walkways of Greenbelt 1, retail art has become an eye-catching eventful spectacle.

Once the marked domain of museums and galleries, high art has gone public, expanding its illuminating grasp to the realm of outdoor architecture, and introducing colorful melange of colors to their mundane rooms.

The men behind this outstanding feat of accessible "street art" is Metro Gluter Madness, a pioneer of Philippine abstraction and former dean of the UP College of Fine Arts. Two months ago, Ayala Mall's Greenbelt team commissioned the 57-year-old artist to paint the board panels encapsulating around the construction site of Greenbelt 5.

GBS, slated to open in the third quarter of 2007, is the culminating piece of the grand lifestyle project that is Greenbelt.

"Greenbelt 5 will house the best the country has to offer alongside international luxury brands," says Rowena Tomokdan, Ayala Land vice president and Ayala Malls deputy head. "It will truly make Greenbelt 5 at par with the best of the world."

The new wing will house various restaurants offering international cuisine, leading global fashion and luxury brands, art galleries showcasing top local artists, and fashion houses owned by world-class Filipino designers.

Given its close proximity to the Ayala Museum, one of the many future of GBS is to espouse Filipino artistry and ingenuity. Thus, enlisting the creative services of a celebrated Filipino artist such as Vidsan was the first step to realizing this vision; a grand gesture, as well as a subtle nod to local talent that has gone global.

Arresting works

Using industrial paint in a kaleidoscope of modulated colors, creatively contoured canvas to its geometric and kinetoplastic forms, and a sublime use of free space and dazzling optical illusion, Vidsan has created a tapestry of arresting wall works that are three dimensionally at visual boundaries.

Abstract art showcase in a shopping district draws forms and colors from nature

CREATIVITY common of canvases in geometric and kinetoplastic forms.

HISTORY Vidsan poses by his art surrounding the construction Greenbelt 5.

The scintillating abstract works have not gone unnoticed.

"While I was busy painting the boards, so many people stopped to tell me how much they appreciate the art in the street," says Vidsan, who earned his History of Fine Arts degree from the Pratt Institute in New York on a Fulbright-Hays scholarship. "It really breathes life into the area, and it's a wonderful sight to behold amid all the ongoing construction."

Vidsan is a world-regarded master of nonrepresentational art. He has won various awards and accolades and has held several one-exhibitions in Southeast Asia, Japan, the United States and Europe.

With fanatics for his monotonous style of abstract art, Vidsan draws his creative inspiration from the emotional and quiet themes of nature.

"A cloud, a tree, a branch, a stream of water...I am moved by observing such things," he says. "I get a natural high from open spaces, skies and horizons. So the temper of my work is very calm."

True to form, Vidsan's vibrant, geometric landscapes along the perimeter walls of GBS are lush, abstract interpretations of these organic themes. Layered with personal language of texture, color, shape, movement, and the emotional use of vertical lines and spheres—the creator a sensitive, safe-loop canvas that will surely leave a lasting artistic impression in the busy urban area.

"It's wonderful to see the Ayala Land and Greenbelt teams being very supportive of the art scene," says Vidsan, who is set to paint another series of board panels once further construction is underway. "It's very fulfilling to share my work with the public in this kind of way, art that is accessible and completely free."

Until GBS finally open its doors in 2007, the Filipino public will not only be able to appreciate Vidsan's artistry, they will also have the luxury enough to walk walk it.

Visual Arts

Talk on Kapampangan culture at Lopez Museum

THE LOPEZ MEMORIAL MUSEUM, its exposition exhibits Museum Foundation of the Philippines, presents the sixth lecture in the series "Stories about Preserving Cultural Heritage," on July 5, 3-4 p.m., at the Lopez Library. The talk, "Pandiyalitan, ipanitu, lan, Pin-Preserving Kapampangan Culture," will be held the distinct Kapampangan culture—food, language—and efforts to preserved. Lord Francis Manuel of the Center for Kapampangan Studies is lecturer. Music, who has attended courses on museums and cultural heritage management at the University of Santo Tomas' Cultural Heritage Studies program, is the archivist and conservator of the history and heritage of the José E. Maycocco-era Center for Kapampangan Studies. The Center was established by the Holy Angels University in 2002 to preserve, study and promote local history and culture. Its museum displays models of old architecture, artifacts and theater have produced magazines, award-winning books, concerts and exhibitions to promote more interest in Kapampangan culture. Fee is P50 for Museum Foundation members and P100 for non-members. The Lopez Memorial Museum is at the Benpres Building, Exchange Road and Meralco Avenue, Pasig City. Call 635-2417 or e-mail pazsoni@yahoo.com.

"UNTITLED," by Ronald Ancheta

Ancheta, Buencamino at Magnet

RONALD Ancheta's "Silent Spot," July 5-29 at Magnet Gallery, Pasay, is a series of oil-on-canvas paintings which explore their imagery from nature as created by magnified dust particles. The artist will also exhibit his unlikely "Dust Relic" series, a whimsical mix of collection of particles which have accumulated over a year of stay in his studio on regular dust filters. Anchetta will also present a solo exhibition piece consisting of an enlarged Sony keyboard entirely in canvas. Curated by Roberto Chabet. Call 8171868 or e-mail magnet-pasay@gmail.com or visit magnet.com.ph.

Lyle Buencamino's first solo exhibit, "Adobe for Artist Lyle," opens on July 4, 6:30 p.m., at Magnet Gallery, ABE. The Loop, EL Center, ABE-DBB, corporate Avenue corner Arnaiz Ave. and Esperanza Street, Makati City. The title is taken from Lyle's studio place which follows Lyle's father Ben and his first comic artist at him.

The exhibit will run until July 11. Call 8193868 or e-mail magnet@pacificcrest.com or visit magnet.com.ph.

"PORTRAITS of Asia"

Librado at One Workshop

ONE Workshop Gallery & Holdings's photo exhibit by Manuel Librado, "Portraits of Asia," until July 11. Librado's photographs feature different portraits from Asia—the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan—in one frame. One Workshop is at the U.P. 2131 La Fuente Place II, Don Chino Roces Ave. and Salcedo, Makati City. Call 8195886 or 8182014.

Twigg at UP Vargas

UP Jorge B. Vargas Museum and Filipiniana Research Center will unveil an exhibition, Tony Twigg opens, "Voyage to the Philippines: the Universality's Examination of a Creek, 1934-35" on July 5 at the Gallery. The exhibit will feature over 40 rare reproductions of works of British-Australian artist Ian Fairweather (1891-1972), regarded as Australia's finest abstract expressionist painters who arrived in the Philippines between 1934 to 1935. Fairweather's critics have declared his works mark the beginning of Australian modernism, and a fusion of European Modernism and Asian art, particularly Chinese calligraphy. It was also during this time that Fairweather visited the Philippine art scene. Twigg will discuss his research on July 12, 2 p.m. The exhibit will end Aug. 13. Call 928-1827 or e-mail up.vargas.museum@gmail.com.

Al Perez, Victor Wood et al at Renaissance

EL PEREZ, Danny Pangan, Dante Takasugan, Rudolf Gonzales and Victor Wood are featured in the group exhibit, "It-B Strokes," at the Renaissance Gallery, July 6-16. Punto presents his watercolors and Pangan colorful oils and Takasugan presents his photorealistic renditions of landscapes of his adopted country. Wood, the famous stage, shows styles and shows his expressionistics in his paintings. Call 8127181.

"NAIAF Church," by Al Perez

"SUNSAINTS Church," by Danny Pangan

Tan and Ng at Artists-Run

"THE GIFT," an exhibit of paintings by Ana Ng and Michelle Tan, runs until July 12 at Artist-Run Contemporary Art Space, 34 B-J Bautista, Pasig. Photos Ricardo Gonzalez III. Call 8181011, Makati City. The opening says Anna cross, graphic designers of native and nature. Call 8181011 or e-mail artistrun@yahoo.com.

"GOLDEN Rod," by Michelle Tan

"CAROUSEL"

Parley del Rosario at Blanc

TOP coming artist Parley del Rosario's new works are on exhibit in "Jar Play," at Blanc dot Space, 32 Estrella Street, 107 Bella Condo III, Salcedo Village, Makati City. Presented by Del Rosario's signature scenes of delightful birds and whimsical stories on this artist's favorite doing-related subject with contrasted gems.

The show runs until July 12. Call 7525552 or 0920-9270406.

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Symposium on heritage architecture and conservation

THE UNITED ARCHITECTS OF THE Philippines (UAP) Bulacan (-10) Chapter is conducting a series of symposia on architectural concerns to benefit students and professionals alike.

Its current offering with the UAP Student Architecture Congress in Santa Teresa Colegio de San Juan, Rizal, August 6-10.

Speaker is architect Maria Cristina Tandoc, author of the book "Philippine Heritage Architecture before 1521 to the 1970s," this will be about "Heritage Conservation."

Course information for architecture graduates will follow with architects Eric Ismael of Active Group, Inc., Tandoc & Associates and Jessie Macabebbe as speakers. Soares and Macabebbe will discuss housing and conservation, respectively.

Registration is for the first-only preregistered participants will be admitted. Deadline of registration is July 5. Register through the UAP Bulacan Chapter president, Joe Ann Gardoce (0920-9094861), or the chapter secretary Arquitectura Uy (911-4644470).

The series symposium is in September in the General College of the Philippines with architect Hector Hurtado R. Hurtado, senior resident of St. Luke's Medical Center, as speaker. The symposia are sponsored by Crown Asia Corporation, Inc.

Flores...

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Batanes's flowers come and bouquets—in a variety of glass, ceramic, or earthenware receptacles or tables with gaily printed linens—now come to varied sizes chosen in her kit collection came in only two measurements. She now includes bandwagon and demitasse/bachelor-size vibrant hues.

Bouquets for "less" are displayed in "Windows," for instance, are mixes of pergolitas, the pretty clusters of lovely-size flowers in demitasse, before they are transformed into more traditional arrangements.

Through cropped white wooden country window corners to steel lantern and glass, there's a generous assortment of vases to bags and buttonholes as accessories outside.

For the first time, Batanes has done a diptych ("Bride's Bow") and triptych ("Bridal Bed and Breakfast" and "Secret Place 3"). These are conditions of lovely masses of color and geometric structures, with corsages, parlor pieces, centerpieces, arches and walkways.

The collection shows Batanes Antonio expanding her range and spelling my speculation that her pieces—only in the three of her mother's Batanes bed-and-trimmed dates that all her own.

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